

John Chick 313 Strand

PENNY ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWS.



No. 85.—VOL. II. NEW SERIES.

London, Saturday, January 28, 1865.

ONE PENNY.

HUMAN SACRIFICES AT DAHOMEY.

The *Moniteur* publishes a letter from Whydah, which supplies details respecting the festival of human sacrifices recently held at Abomey, the capital of Dahomey, before the King, and all his court and great dignitaries of State. The letter says:—

"The horrible scenes we are about to describe took place in a country which maintains active relations with Europeans, and notwithstanding continued protests from France, England, and many other Powers. Dahomey, situated in the maritime parts of the Niger country on the Slave Coast, to the east of the Bight of Benin, is one of the most extensive and richest States of Africa. The French, English, and Portuguese, and several other nations have factories in it, which are nearly all established at Whydah, the most important port of the kingdom. The King, having announced to the people that in a short time, to honour the manes of Agongoro, his ancestor, and King Gezo, his father, forty prisoners belonging to the rebel tribe of the Akankas would be immolated on the market-place at Abomey, with the usual ceremony; three days afterwards he decided that this barbarous deed should be accomplished one hour before sunrise. Many Europeans who were in the town had an audience of the monarch, and implored him to give up the horrible sacri-

fice. The King declared that he could not suppress the national festival, but that in consideration for the foreigners he consented to reduce the number of the victims to twelve. On the eve of the sacrifice he went to a great shed, under which forty prisoners were secured to posts. He gave an order that twenty-eight should be released, and that they should be taken back to their prison, and then addressed himself to the twelve others in order to announce to them that next morning, in expiation of the crimes committed by the chief of their tribe, and to satisfy the shade of his father and of his ancestor, they would be decapitated before the assembled people. The unfortunate men heard the royal speech with the utmost indifference. The King added that two of them would be executed with his own hand, and then retired. A short time afterwards arrived Prince Boou-Sau, the King's brother. He chose two of the prisoners, announced to them that they had been selected to be despatched by his brother, but in order to be admitted to such an honour it was necessary to purify their crime-stained bodies, and that they must pass the night in the great fetish temple, prostrated before the idols. On the next day the prisoners were led to the market-place, their hands bound behind their backs. The King presided at the ceremony, seated on a large ivory throne,

surrounded by his court, the great dignitaries of the kingdom and the ministry. On the centre of the place was a large silver vessel intended to receive the blood of the victims. When the hour had come the King advanced, took a very thin steel sabre, and depressed the heads of the two prisoners he was about to immolate. These poor wretches, on the order given to them, were placed at the edge of the vessel which was about to catch their blood. At the conclusion of the first execution the crowd uttered enthusiastic shouts of applause for full five minutes, after which the King resumed his seat on the throne. The other ten prisoners were executed by the great fetish man, or high priest, who picked up each victim's head and showed it to the people, whilst they uttered ferocious yells. When all was over the populace fell upon the bodies of the unfortunate victims, which they cut into pieces, and then drank their blood. The King retired in great pomp, and caused the twelve heads to be fixed on the walls of his palace. These monstrous scenes occur three or four times a year, and this in the nineteenth century! Unfortunately, human sacrifices are not confined to the kingdom of Dahomey. They take place also very frequently in the kingdoms of Aboekuts, Ashantee, and Benin, also situated in Africa, and in the same region as Dahomey."



CONFIRMATION OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS LOUISE AT WHIPPINGHAM CHURCH, ISLE OF WIGHT. (See page 519.)

Notes of the Week.

On Saturday afternoon, at four o'clock, William Wilson, foreman of the upholsterers, and George Hammond, head porter at the Lord Chamberlain's stores, Windsor Castle, were brought before Captain J. H. Wilson, one of the magistrates for the county of Berkshire, at the borough gaol, Windsor, and charged with stealing an Indian silk bed furniture, two embroidered silk curtains, and three draperies to the value of the property of Her Majesty the Queen. It seems that the goods in question had been forwarded in the course of last week to the Messrs. Oxley's auction-rooms in London for sale. The rich nature of the articles and the place from which they were sent aroused suspicion in the minds of the parties to whom they were consigned, and information of the circumstance was at once sent to Scotland-yard. Sergeant Clark, of the London detective force, who was employed to investigate the affair, immediately put himself in communication with Mr. Inspector Beece, of the Berks constabulary, and these two officers proceeded to Mr. Seabrook, Her Majesty's inspector in the Lord Chamberlain's department at Windsor Castle, who identified the articles as being part of the Queen's property, and inquiries were then made at the goods depot of the Windsor Station of the Great Western Railway, for the purpose of tracing the senders of the stolen goods, when it was ascertained that Hammond, the head porter at the Castle stores, had brought the parcel (which was sent in the name of Wilson) to the station. Hammond, on being questioned about the matter, denied all knowledge of the things, but stated that he had carried the parcel to the station by Wilson's orders. Wilson, the foreman of the upholsterers, was then called into the room at the Castle stores, when the stolen articles were shown to him, and Sergeant Clark then told him that he was a detective from London, upon which Wilson said that "he was very sorry, but Hammond had persuaded him to do it." Hammond, however, stoutly denied knowing anything about it. Mr. Seabrook, her Majesty's inspector in the Lord Chamberlain's department, was in attendance to press the charge against the prisoners, who had been detained in the borough gaol, in the custody of Mr. Superintendent Eagar, of the Windsor police. Mr. Inspector Beece applied for a remand in order that other evidence might be collected, which Captain Johnson accordingly granted. Wilson was then removed in the custody of the Berks police to Reading, while Hammond was liberated to await the next examination.

An inquest, which had been adjourned, was concluded on Saturday, before Mr. Bedford at King's College Hospital on John Hunter, aged forty-seven. Deceased was employed as stable-man, became ill at the latter end of November, and was admitted into the hospital with an abscess in the right arm. He got worse and worse, and a succession of abscesses formed. Dr. Casy and Dr. Johnson, physician to the hospital, expressed their conviction that death had been undoubtedly caused by glanders through contact with a diseased horse. It was a fatal disease, and could not be cured. Mr. Cherry differed, and did not think the death was from glanders, or he would not have lived so long. It was a disease horrible to contemplate. A great deal of medical experience on this rare disease was entered into, and as to whether it could be contracted by the infectious air of a stable in which a glandered horse was located, but no definite opinion was arrived at. Dr. Johnson considered a person suffering from it must die within fourteen days. Verdict, "Death from glanders."

On Saturday night an inquest was held at Winsome-green by the coroner of Birmingham on the body of Sophia Lownes, a married woman, twenty-seven years of age, who at the time of her death was an inmate of the lunatic asylum of the borough, at Winsome-green. From the evidence it appeared, that on the 1st of last month the deceased was taken ill at her own house, and in the evening her husband left her to secure the attendance of a nurse. On his return he was surprised to find her sitting by the fire in her night-dress, and, with the assistance of the nurse, at once removed her to bed. Early the next morning the nurse called him up, and to his horror showed him the left hand of deceased almost reduced to a cinder. It appeared that during his absence on the previous night she must have thrust her hand into the fire, and, as it was a very small one, held it there a considerable time. Its condition escaped observation on the return of the husband. Deceased subsequently became quite insane, and was removed to the asylum, where her bodily as well as mental condition received proper attention. Nevertheless the remnants of two fingers dropped off, and on the 28th of last month the rest of the hand was removed by the surgeon, death ensuing on the 18th instant. A post mortem examination showed that the direct cause of death was bronchitis. The lunacy was owing to a derangement in the brain. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.

INFORMATION has been forwarded to the Wandsworth Police-station, respecting the death by drowning of a man (unknown) on Saturday evening. It appears that he was walking from the railway station to the Feathers Tavern, when he missed his road during the dense fog which prevailed, and instead of crossing the lock swing-bridge, walked by the side of it into the water, and was drowned. Several persons heard the splash into the water, but on arriving at the spot could not see anything of him. The body was found on Sunday, and conveyed into one of the outhouses at the Feathers, where it awaits identification.

On Monday, in the Crown Court, Leeds, Mr. Blackburn held an inquest on the body of Elizabeth Leary, wife of John Leary, a hawker, residing in Ivory-street, Pottery-field, Hunslet. Deceased gave birth to a child on Monday, the 26th ult., and died on Friday week. The case was treated by Mrs. Blackburn, a midwife, and Mr. Edmund Miller, assistant to Messrs. Pullan and Brameld, surgeons, Hunslet. The following are the facts of the case. Deceased was the mother of seventeen children. On Christmas Day she was taken in labour, and the midwife found it necessary to send for Mr. Pullan, a surgeon. That gentleman was ill in bed, and sent a pupil named Miller. It appears that Miller performed a very delicate and difficult operation entirely on his own responsibility, and in so doing probably conducted to the death of Mrs. Leary. A post-mortem examination of the woman's body was made by Mr. S. Smith. In his opinion the death of the woman had proceeded from mortification, brought on through the gross ignorance of the midwife and the medical pupil. The jury found a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Mrs. Blackburn, the midwife, and Miller, the medical pupil, both of whom stand committed for trial at the spring assizes.

On Monday afternoon, Mr. Humphreys, Middlesex coroner, held an inquiry at the Victoria Tavern, Hackney-wick, respecting the death of Thomas Osborne, a boy porter on the North London Railway, who was run over and killed. The deceased was taken into the employment of the railway company, at the Victoria-park Station on Monday week. On the Thursday evening, when the 6.16 train from Fenchurch-street came in, the deceased went to carry a letter to the signal-box, and was then told to "look out." Directly afterwards an engine coming from St. Pancras came along and struck the deceased as he was in the act of crossing the line. He was killed instantly, his foot and arm being crushed, and almost severed from the body. Being inexperienced in his business, he had not attached importance enough to the change in the colour of the signal, and so had met his death. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

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Foreign News.

FRANCE

The following Paris letter describes the funeral of the celebrated Socialist writer, Proudhon, ex-representative of the people:—

"M. Proudhon's interment took place yesterday in the burial-ground at Passy, where he had resided for the last two or three years. He had passed ever since his appearance in public life as an unbeliever in any form of religion, and some of the 'Liberal' journals, particularly the *Opinion Nationale*, record, apparently with satisfaction, that he rejected to the last moment any religious aid or consolation. 'Some days back,' says the last named, 'the parish priest of Passy presented himself, but Proudhon refused to receive him. 'The old man does his duty,' he observed, 'but tell him I don't want his ministry.' Then, turning to his wife, he added, 'I am from you I expect salvation.' He had, moreover, obtained the positive, though unnecessary, assurance that his remains should not be taken to a church, and one of his former assistants in the editorship of *Le Peuple* took care that his instructions should be carried out. A number of persons, some of whom had formerly belonged to the St. Simonian and Socialist sects, as well as groups of the inhabitants of Passy, attracted by curiosity, attended the funeral. Before the hearse, which was of the plainest description, had arrived a regiment of the line returning from exercise happened to approach, with its band playing. No people show more respect to the dead than the French. As the head of the column advanced, some persons went up to the colonel, who was riding in front, and said that it was becoming that the band should continue playing as it passed the door. The colonel excused himself on the ground that, having seen no external sign of mourning, he was not aware that there was a dead body in the house, and, instantly making a sign with his hand to stop the music, gave the military salute with his sword. The drums struck up the salute usual on such occasions. This compliance with the wishes of the people was very well received, and the regiment marched past to the cry of 'Vive la Ligue.' In a few minutes a regiment of the Guards, also returning from exercise, came up with their band playing. The same request was made, and was instantly and gracefully complied with. The commanding officer ordered the music to cease, and the men passed before the house in deep silence. It is the custom in France to hang black drapery at the house where any one has died, and no one passes without saluting; men take off their hats, and women make the sign of the cross and repeat a short prayer. In the present instance there was no drapery, nor anything whatever to indicate that there was a dead body—probably lest it might be supposed that the deceased had in his last moments received religious succour. The procession fell in, the bearers moved slowly along, and reached the cemetery at three o'clock. The coffin was laid in the grave one or two of Proudhon's old associates pronounced an address over it, and the crowd separated.

PRUSSIA

At Monday's sitting of the Upper House the address drawn up by Count von Armin-Boitzenburg and his friends was unanimously adopted by the committee in the presence of Minister President Herr von Bismarck. The main points of the address are as follows:—

"The victories gained under the Prussian and Austrian flags are a fresh guarantee for joint and united action of the two great German Powers, to uphold the right of German countries and the maintenance of that confederation in which all the German States are included. In the success of the Prussian arms we recognise with justifiable pride the first-fruits of the re-organisation which is the special work of the King. We rely upon his Majesty's wisdom that the re-settlement of the countries ceded by the treaty of peace to the great German Powers will correspond as well to the interests of Prussia and Germany as to the sacrifices made by the King and his subjects, thereby enabling the Duchies to turn their strength to account for the good of the common Fatherland. We regret the conflict between the Government and a portion of the representatives of the country. This regret, however, in no way affects our unshaken conviction that the independence of Prussia and her position as a great Power absolutely demand a firm and strong Government, and that the prosperity of the country requires that the representatives exercise their rights with moderation and regard for existing circumstances, whose maintenance presents the first condition for the security of Prussian greatness. We will, therefore, unshinkingly uphold the King's Government in defence of all properly-acquired rights, and especially of the sacred privileges of the Crown as well in the department of the organization of the army as in every other."

JAPAN.

Advices from Yokohama to the 4th of November, received via San Francisco, report the murder by the Japanese of two British officers. The British minister had demanded the arrest and punishment of the assassins, and would take measures to compel it. The Japanese authorities showed a disposition to comply with the demand.

AMERICA.

General Butler has been superseded. The correspondent of the *New York Herald* with the army of the James, writing on the 9th, says:—

"Yesterday the troops of this command were startled by the unexpected announcement that General Butler had been relieved, and ordered to Lowell, Massachusetts. A host of rumours are flying about as to the cause of this change. Nearly all, however, attribute the removal of General Butler to the failure of the Wilmington expedition. The order was received at Butler's headquarters about half-past eleven o'clock a.m. yesterday. The only person present who did not appear to be at all surprised was the general himself. Whether he knew that it was coming, or whether he has the faculty of viewing the most unexpected events calmly, is more than I can determine, but certainly the general was not at all disturbed. Immediately on its reception his orders were issued clearly and decisively, and before three o'clock he was ready to vacate his command at the front. Adopting the theory that General Butler was removed on account of the Wilmington expedition not meeting with the expected success, only one question remained to puzzle curious military men. They could not imagine why the general had not been removed some days ago. This question, however, received a final solution when General Ord was assigned to the command. The hero of Fort Harrison was away on leave of absence, and the authorities only waited for his return to remove General Butler. General Ord returned yesterday, and at once proceeded to the head-quarters of his command, the 24th Army Corps. He had hardly arrived before he received notification of the removal of General Butler, and his own assignment to the command of the James. Immediately on the promulgation of the order relieving General Butler and replacing him by General Ord, the staff of the army of the James assembled around the quarters of their late commander, reinforced by numerous other officers of the command. 'Numerous' would hardly convey an idea of the number of officers present to bid him farewell. The general was deeply affected, and expressed his regret at parting with an army which, under his command, had achieved so much. But any expressions of sorrow were cut short by the rapidity of the general's arrangements. He had received his orders to report at Lowell at the earliest moment, and before eight o'clock p.m. he announced that he was

ready to leave. The orders directing this change instructed General Butler to proceed to Lowell, Massachusetts, and report thence to the adjutant-general of the army."

HORRIBLE DEATH ON THE NORTH KENT RAILWAY.

Some singular facts, illustrative of the enormous increase in the extent of the railway traffic which has taken place of late years, were disclosed at an inquest held by Mr. Payne, the City coroner, on Monday, on the body of a railway employee named Thomas Snelling. It appears that in the neighbourhood of Rotherhithe there is a junction of the Mid-Kent, North Kent, Crystal Palace, and Greenwich lines with the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway line. The trains of these different railways run to London-bridge over six lines of metals, and we were informed that in the winter months between 400 and 500 trains pass up and down in the twenty-four hours, whilst in the summer months the almost incredible number of between 800 and 900 travel over the rails within that time. Six trains have been known to pass the signal-boxes in the space of three minutes. For the regulation and safety of this immense traffic there are two signal-posts, each of which is worked by a man and a boy, who are relieved every eight hours. If anything were to occur to one of the men, incapacitating him for the performance of his most onerous duties, his attendant boy is qualified to take his place until relief can be sent. During the dense fog on Saturday night the traffic was much impeded, but such was the care taken that no accident of any kind occurred; each train stopped as it approached the junction, and only resumed its course upon receipt of verbal directions from the signalmen and other officials. Accidents to railway employees are not infrequent, owing to the number of trains passing and repassing. Within the last year, four men have been killed. Space is so economical that there is no room for the men—signalmen, bill sticker, telegraph-men, and others whose duties compel them to walk up and down the line—to stand between the parallel and the side lines. They are, therefore, obliged to walk between the metals; and Mr. S. Brown, telegraph foreman, deposed "that there was no place where the men could walk with safety." They are, however, provided with time service books, by the study of which they can arrive at an idea of the time at which a particular line of rails might be free; but on a former occasion, it is deposed that trains hardly ever kept at their exact time. Man-holes were also provided at intervals for the men to step into when they expected trains to come, and it was the general plan to walk towards, and not from, trains. If a man stood between the metals two trains might cut him to pieces. On Friday afternoon week, at 4.25, the telegraph man, Thomas Snelling, having finished his work, was proceeding up the lines towards London-bridge in the customary way, and he took the North Kent down line. He saw a train coming towards him 400 yards off. He hastily stepped on to the North Kent up line, not perceiving that there was a train on those metals close behind him. He was instantly knocked down, and the whole train passed over him and cut him to pieces. His head was severed from the body and smashed; his lungs were forced into his brains. Mr. Brown, above referred to, stated that if deceased had examined his book he would have seen that at that particular time the Greenwich line would have been unoccupied for fifteen minutes. The occurrence was wholly accidental, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT ON THE ICE.—A LADY AND GENTLEMAN DROWNED.—We deeply regret to have to report the occurrence of a very deplorable accident near Leeds yesterday. The frost of the last few days having hardened the ponds in the neighbourhood, those who enjoy skating have been on the look-out for opportunities of exercising their skill in that healthful recreation. A favourite resort in such cases has been a large sheet of water known as Benyon's Pond, at Gledhow. Yesterday this pond was visited by many ladies and gentlemen, who ventured on the ice. The venture, in two instances, was both unfortunate and melancholy in its results. The ice being thin in one part, owing to the action of a spring, gave way as several persons were together upon it, and they were precipitated into the water. One young lady—Miss Bulmer, eldest daughter of Mr. Bulmer, surgeon, Park-square, Leeds—who was being pushed on the ice in a chair, was drowned. Nor did the calamity end here. Mr. Lyndon Smith, who was on a securer part of the pond, hastened to the assistance of those in the water, and while endeavouring to save others was himself drowned. Miss Bulmer was a young lady aged about sixteen years. Mr. Lyndon Smith was a married gentleman, and leaves a wife and three young children. He was junior partner in the firm of Messrs. William Smith and Son, extensive woollen merchants, in Leeds, and was known throughout the county for his great skill as an amateur photographer.—*Leeds Mercury*.

EUROPEAN RECRUITING FOR THE FEDERAL ARMY.—The *New York Herald* contains the following in regard to the recruiting in Europe for the Federal army:—It is generally known that agents of the State of Massachusetts imported from Europe, as labourers, a large number of men, about eleven hundred, landed them on one of the numerous islands in the vicinity of Boston, and made active preparations to put them into the army by the most liberal promises of pay, clothing, lands, &c., to be credited, of course, on her quota; but they, as a general thing, utterly refused to enter the army, though some of them assented. They were finally, however, all sent to Washington, when, on an investigation of the whole subject connected with their importation, deceptions practised, and money promised, of which they had received little or none, the Government positively refused to muster them into the service of the United States, or credit them to the Massachusetts quota. Consequently, they are lost to that State, and all the expense she has been to coarsering them is thrown away, to say nothing of the loss of character to her citizens. Large numbers of these men were wholly unfit for military duty, and how Government officers could have been found in Boston to have passed them is a mystery of which Boston alone holds the secret. Now these men are afloat upon the world, and most of them have arrived in this city penniless and in want. The able-bodied ones, and there are men among them who would do credit as soldiers to any army in the world, are ready and anxious to enlist if they can keep clear of Massachusetts. With this object, a squad of twenty or more visited Mr. Blunt's office on Saturday, and though foreigners would answer as substitutes, were any of our citizens wanting substitutes present to secure them, yet the misfortune is they desire, as a body, to go into the New York battery regiment. The War Department having just issued an order that all future enlistments must be for the infantry alone, the supervisor is deprived of the privilege of receiving these men, and the consequence is we are likely to lose men enough out of the Massachusetts lot to fill our quota. It is hoped that the difficulty in the way of their reception may be overcome. Mr. Blunt was in consultation on Saturday with General Hays in reference to the subject, who immediately telegraphed to the War Department for a special order to enlist these men, who are able-bodied, in a New York artillery regiment. It is hoped a favourable answer will be received. In the meantime Chairman Blunt has placed them in good quarters, where they will be well fed and taken proper care of, much to their delight, it being the first good treatment they have received since arriving in this country. This manner of filling State quotas Massachusetts has discovered will not work.

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General News.

WE (*Army and Navy Gazette*) are sorry to learn that Mr. Denison, the Deputy Judge-Advocate-General, is suffering from serious illness. Mr. Vernon Lushington is discharging the duties for the present.

THE *Moniteur de la Flotte* publishes an account of the shipwreck of the three-masted barque John Williams, belonging to the London Missionary Society. That ship, which visited Tahiti so frequently within the last twenty years, sailed from Papeete on the 12th of March, 1864, to accomplish a mission on several of the South Sea Islands, and then to proceed to Sydney. She had on board as passengers M. Bauff, a very aged missionary, accompanied by his wife, his sister, and niece from Huahine, with the Rev. M. Boyle from Aitutaki, all proceeding to Australia. The John Williams was becalmed in June last, near the Island of Danger, situated between the Pernryas and the Archipelago of Samoa. All the efforts of the captain to tow the barque of the land with boats were ineffectual, and she drifted ashore and sank. The captain, passengers, and crew were saved, but all their property was lost. In July last they were able to quit the Navigators' Islands in a small galliot for Sydney. "Thus," says the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, "perished in a calm a ship which had so often surmounted the hurricane on the course she had travelled so long as an instrument of trade, civilization, and religion."

FRANCES ANNE, Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry, expired at her sea-side residence, Seabarn Hall, near Sunderland. For the last few months she had been suffering from a complication of liver and heart diseases. She appeared to rally a short time ago, but a few days since she suffered a relapse, and her death had been expected almost hourly since the middle of last week. The late marchioness, as the heiress of the late Sir Harry Vane Tempest, was the possessor of extensive collieries in the county of Durham, and for nearly half a century her name and that of her deceased husband, the marquis, have been associated with great improvements in the condition of the pit population. Her eldest son, Lord Seaham, who for some years represented North Durham in parliament, became Earl Vane in 1851, on the death of the marquis (created an earl in 1823, with remainder to the male issue of his second marriage); and his son by the first marriage, Lord Castle-reagh, succeeded by the marquise on the same event. Her second son, Lord Adolphus, died in 1864; the successor of Lord Seaham in the representation of North Durham; and the deceased had also a third son, Ernest, and three daughters. Her eldest daughter and namesake, Frances Anne, married Lord Blandford in 1843, and is now Duchess of Marlborough. Lady Alexandrina, her second daughter, married the Earl of Portarlington; and the third, Lady Adelaide, became the wife of the Rev. Frederick Law, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. All her children survive her, save the member for North Durham.

In the vestry of the parish church of St Michael's Southampton, there are preserved the reading desks where persons used to read the Bible at the Reformation, and the chains by which the Bibles were fastened to the desks.

THE *Kraut Zeitung* gives an anecdote affording good evidence of the salutary effects of the Bismarck regime. The Berlin cabmen are beginning to forget where the House of Deputies is situated. Parliamentary government has, in other words, been almost buried in oblivion. The anecdote runs thus:—On the first day of the session a deputy jumped into a cab, and said to the driver, "Drive me to the House of Deputies." Driver answers, "Where to?" Deputy, "Why don't you keep your ears open?—to the House of Deputies." Driver, "To the House of Deputies!—Where's that?" Deputy, "You don't know where the House of Deputies is? Why, on the Dohon's Platz, to be sure!" Driver (cratching his head), "On the Dohon's Platz?—Oh, yes, to be sure! We had quite forgotten all about that!"

We learn that the Dowager Countess of Tankerville expired at her residence, in Hertford-street, May-fair, at nine o'clock on Monday morning. The deceased, who, up to the 12th instant, was apparently in her usual state of health, was that night seized with paralysis, which deprived her of the use of her right side, and was attended with loss of speech. Up to Friday evening the countess was going on favourably, but a change took place that evening, and since then her ladyship has been gradually sinking. The lamented countess was born the 5th of October, 1782; she was daughter of Antoine, late Duke de Gramont (and aunt of the present duke), by Aglae, daughter of the Duke de Polignac. Her ladyship married 28th July, 1806, Charles Augustus, fifth Earl of Tankerville, and by that nobleman, who died in June, 1859, leaves issue the present Earl of Tankerville and the Countess of Malinesbury.

The people of the United States have constructed and sustained railway construction at the rate of one mile to every one thousand of population, and there is no reason to doubt the communities organized over the great plains and mountains between the Missouri river and the Pacific will demand and support continental railways in the same proportion.—*American Paper*.

THE Incumbency of Oystermouth, near Swansea, vacant by the death of the Rev. S. Davies, has been presented to the Rev. E. M. Welby, B.A., of Ketley, Glamorganshire. The rectory of Llanddowror, Pembrokeshire, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. Thomas Martin, who held the living for upwards of half a century. The patron is the Rev. J. H. A. Phillips, M.A., of Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire, who succeeded a few years since to the estates of the late Lord Milford.

FATAL MISTAKE.—On the 5th instant, Henry Murney, son of the late Hon. William B. Murney, for years a member of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, George Rankin, son of Mr. Arthur Rankin, M.P.P., and Charles Scott, son of the late Mr. W. S. Scott, agent of Molson's line of steamboats, and brother of Mr. Scott, manager of the Express Company, who were staying at the Russell Hotel, stopped at the drug store of Messrs. Sturton and Co., corner of St. John and Stanislaus streets, and ordered a stimulating drink made of chemical compounds. The elder Mr. Sturton, who is reputed one of the best chemists in the Province, was absent; but his son, who is his partner, was present, and made up the potions as ordered. Unfortunately, he mistook one bottle for another, and gave his patients a draught of digitalis—a deadly poison—instead of gentian, as he intended. The party had no sooner left the store than the effect of the poison began to manifest itself. Each of them complained, on leaving the store, that their fingers and the extremities of their toes were affected alike; that a burning sensation, as if pierced by needles, was troubling them, but did not suspect for a moment that they had been poisoned. Although the distance from Mr. Sturton's drug store to Russell's Hotel is scarcely 100 yards, yet the deadly draught had such an effect that Mr. Murney fell twice from exhaustion before reaching the hotel, and immediately after entering the hotel his companion, Mr. Rankin, fell senseless on the table in the reading-room. They were immediately conveyed to their respective rooms, and medical aid called in. The noxious draught had, however, taken effect, and the physicians were in immediate attendance, and the stomach-pump physicians were at the scene of the poison, yet they were found with a free application of antidotes were used, yet they were found of no avail. Mr. Murney, after suffering for an hour and a half, expired, while his friends, Mr. Rankin and Mr. Scott, lay in a very low condition; their medical attendant, Dr. Marsden, remaining with them all night. Mr. Scott and Mr. Rankin are now out of danger. The coroner's inquest has resulted in a verdict of "Man-slaughter" against Mr. Sturton, jun.—*Quebec Daily News*.

MURDER ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

A MURDER, scarcely less atrocious than that of Mr. Briggs, has been perpetrated on the East Indian Railway, and under circumstances in some respects analogous. It appears that the up passenger train of the 11th of December left Jumalpore at 10 p.m., and, as usual, the third-class carriages were occupied by natives, who were crammed into them to suffocation. On the arrival of this train at the Bankipore Station, the station-master, perceiving an intermediate third-class carriage quite empty, had the curiosity to open it, and, to his astonishment, discovered the body of a native lying at the bottom of it in a pool of blood. A hurried examination showed that the body had received several wounds, one of them in the throat, which must have been the immediate cause of death. The station-master, not thinking himself justified in detaining the train, allowed it to proceed on with the corpse, and immediately telegraphed to the Dinapore station-master the circumstances above stated. On the arrival of the train at Dinapore, the corpse was removed from the carriage, but, strange to say, the station-master allowed it to proceed on without making any attempt to detain the third-class passenger train, which, under the circumstances, he surely should have done. The magistrate and superintendent of police of Patna arrived several hours after, and, very naturally, remonstrating with the station-master for so foolishly allowing every clue to slip from the hands of justice, ordered the body back to Patna by the 12.45 p.m. down train. Thus every clue to the perpetrators of this abominable murder has been so far completely lost, save a Mohajir letter found on the person of the deceased, which may possibly lead to his identity. It is worthy of remark that the railway ticket was nowhere to be found, the murderer having evidently taken it to prevent the station where the ill-fated man entered the carriage from being known. It is believed that money was the incentive to this crime, but how it could have been perpetrated in a third-class carriage full of passengers, without some of the occupants coming to the rescue of the unfortunate victim, and attempting to seize the murderer at the next station, is exceedingly mysterious. That the murder, however, was actually witnessed by a carriage full of natives is beyond doubt; hence the third-class carriage in which the murder was committed was found completely deserted on the arrival of the train at Bankipore, the occupants having done so evidently from fear of being suspected of complicity.—*Homeward Mail*.

A CHILD MURDERED AND PACKED AS RAILWAY LUGGAGE.

ON Monday, Dr. Lankester, coroner for Central Middlesex, held an inquest at the Elephant and Castle, Camden-town, on the body of a very fine female child, aged about twelve months, which had been discovered packed in a box at the Euston Station of the London and North-Western Railway.

The atrocious character of the case excited great interest. Inspectors McLaughlin and Gibson, of the S division, were present on the part of the police, and Inspector Pridgeon, of the railway force, on the part of the authorities of the London and North-Western Company.

The evidence went to show that on the morning of the 8th instant, just as the 8.15 a.m. was about to start from the Victoria Station, Manchester, via the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, a woman gave to Anthony Bond, the guard, a green painted box, saying that she was going by the train to Preston, and that was her luggage. He placed the box in the luggage van, and supposed the woman had got into the train. On arriving at Preston, as no one asked for the box, he took it on to Fleetwood, and brought it back at night by the 9.15 p.m. train, and carried it to the left luggage department. The box had a label on it, on which was written, "Mrs. Olegg, passenger—Manchester to Preston." After remaining there some days, and not being owned, as was the custom on all lines connected with the North-Western, the box was despatched to and arrived at the Euston Station left-luggage department, where, on Friday last, it was opened to see if there was any clue to the owner. At the top of the box was a thick cloth, and underneath it straw, which, on being removed, disclosed the body of a perfectly naked female child, doubled up and lying on its side on some flock placed at the bottom of the box. Inspector Pridgeon, who was sent for, handed the body over to the metropolitan police.

Mr. John Roberts, surgeon of the infirmary of St. Pancras Workhouse, said, when brought there the child had been dead some days. It had cut both its upper and lower front teeth, and was, he should say, about twelve months old. The hair was long, the child had been well nourished, and there were no external marks of violence; but its limbs were rigid. On making a post mortem examination he found congestion of the lungs and kidneys, and on the right side of the heart there was a quantity of dark blood. There was fluid in the stomach, which he had tested, but could find no traces of poison. The child had evidently met with a violent death from suffocation. The body was perfectly healthy in every way.

The Coroner said the evidence pointed to the fact that a most atrocious and deliberate murder had been perpetrated, and to the probability that the child had been packed in the box alive. The appearances showed all the evidences of suffocation. He would leave it to the jury to say if they would return a verdict of wilful murder, or adjourn to enable the police to trace the guilty parties. The inquiry was ultimately adjourned.

MELANCHOLY COINCIDENCE.

THE superintendent of police at Brigg recently died of inflammation of the brain, induced, it is believed, by anxiety of mind caused by the escape of a notorious criminal who had been placed in his care. The prisoner was known by the name of "Raggy," and it seems had been several times convicted. On one occasion he had been sent to prison for two months, with hard labour; a second time for four months; and a third time he had been sentenced to three years penal servitude. He had afterwards been apprehended for a burglary at Wrawby, a village near Brigg; was again taken to the Kirtton prison; brought down from Kirtton by Mr. Snow, the governor, and given into the custody of Mr. Eady, the Brigg superintendent, whose death is now recorded. The prisoner shortly took an opportunity of leaving the room, to go to the yard for a certain purpose—a purpose best known to himself. He was permitted to go by a young and inexperienced constable named Straw; and his absence was forgotten for a few minutes. On being searched for, the man was missing, and an alarm of his escape was raised. It was found that he had had no difficulty in doing so. He would have to get over the prison wall, and this he could do by stepping upon a copper, and a shelf above the copper, which was only two feet below the top of the wall. The escape was thus accomplished, and to avoid detection, "Raggy" took off his boots. He thus left no trace or means of discovering the direction he had taken. Fleet as buck, and a good swimmer, he went away. Eight policemen made every search in Brigg and the neighbourhood, but unsuccessfully. Eady, on learning of the man's escape, had said that half an hour could not elapse before he was captured. Mr. Eady had to see his superintendent-in-chief—trouble afflicted him—he sickened and died. The superintendent, who had been one of the most gentlemanly and clever men in the force, succumbed to the misfortune. Four weeks elapsed, and strange to say, on the very night that poor Eady died, "Raggy" had committed one other felony. He again cleverly escaped from the hands of the constable, and, good swimmer as he was, he plunged into the River Trent, having on a manacle. This time he could not swim, and while endeavouring to escape he was drowned.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON A WARDER BY A PRISONER.

[From the *Western Daily Mercury*.]

On Friday last Captain N. Norway and R. Foster, Esq., held an inquiry at the Cornwall county gaol respecting an assault made, with intent to murder, by Peter O'Brien on Mr. John T. Bramble, whose left leg was broken and dangerously fractured by repeated blows with a hammer, and several other severe injuries about the legs. Several of the prisoners were at work breaking stones in the yard, for the purpose of laying on the yards and paths within the gaol. O'Brien was so employed about two p.m., when suddenly he commenced the murderous attack on the warder then in charge of the men at work. He struck him several blows on the legs with the hammer, and aimed a blow at his head which must have caused instant death but for the providential interference of one of the prisoners, who caught hold of O'Brien's arm, and he was overpowered by other assistance and secured. He has since stated that he was determined to kill some one—no matter whom—and that he should be very willing to be hung on the gallows in the gaol, and that he will yet murder some one. He appears to be a most desperate and dangerous fellow. He has been in the navy, and the army in India, and was a ticket-of-leave man. He was tried at the last Michaelmas sessions for house-breaking, convicted, and sentenced to fifteen months' hard labour in the county gaol. J. Ward and T. G. Couch, Esqrs., surgeons of the county gaol, have given Mr. Bramble every attention, but have not yet been able to set the leg, owing to a very strong inflammation, nor can they yet form an opinion whether they can do it, or as to the alternative of amputation, it being a comminuted fracture, and very likely parts of the bone will work out. Mr. Bramble was a very kind and humane man, always attentive to his duties, but with that kindness and moderation which won for him the respect and esteem of the visiting magistrates, the governor, Captain Colville, and all within the establishment. The prisoner was put into the refractory cell in iron.

ATTACK UPON A BARONET.

THE *Kilkenny Journal* gives the particulars of a savage attack made the other night on Sir John Blunden, near Cullen, on his way home to Castle Blunden. When walking along he heard some drunken fellows talking behind him, and directing their remarks to himself. They overtook him, and tried to trip him up, but Sir John remonstrated with them on their unseemly conduct, and for a time the remonstrance had the desired effect; but the miscreants soon renewed their attack, and that, too, in a ferocious style. We are told that "when Sir John had passed Poulgower-bridge, two of the cowardly ruffians fell upon him with great ferocity, the one kicking him in the abdomen, while the other struck him on the head with, it is thought, a stick. It is no wonder that Sir John was stunned and nearly prostrate to the earth; still, however, he contrived to make his way to one of the adjacent houses, his assailants following him all the time and roaring savagely. The first door at which he knocked was not opened, the occupants of the house no doubt thinking that the ill-treated gentleman was one of the drunken fellows who had been rolling about the road all that evening. As delay would be worse than useless, Sir John went to another house, into which he was admitted immediately that he had announced who he was, and just as he was stepping across the threshold the blackguards again came up and kicked at him, but the door was instantly shut in their faces. When the poor people living in the house saw the exhausted and weak state of Sir John Blunden, who is esteemed and respected by all classes of the community, they were really frightened. He was then induced to lie on a bed for some time, and soon after he recovered his failing strength sufficiently to be able to walk home, escorted by a man named Michael Ryan." Patrick Keny and William Bolger were taken into custody next day as the alleged assailants of the baronet, and sent for trial to the petty sessions. Sir John Blunden is highly spoken of by the newspaper from whence this narrative is taken.

THE ship Suzanne, of Shields, from Cartagena for Shields, was abandoned off L'Orant on January 17, and her crew all landed at Plymouth.

A LONG CAPTIVITY.—The *Abeille de Fontainebleau* gives the following account of the return of a French officer after thirty-three years' captivity. This officer, Captain Bruxel, of the 20th Regiment of the line, was taken prisoner in 1831 by the Arabs in Algeria, and nothing further having been heard of him, he was supposed to be dead. It appears that he was at one moment very near being beheaded, but was ultimately taken 300 leagues into the interior, where he was for long years employed as a herdsman, and never found any means of communicating with his family or country. But during the late Arab insurrection, when all men capable of bearing arms had left the tribe, he mounted a camel and effected his escape. After riding many days he reached the west coast of Africa, and there embarked on a Maltese vessel which landed him at Cartagena (Spain). Thence Captain Bruxel proceeded to France, joined his regiment in garrison at Dijon, where he received the necessary documents to enable him to proceed to Paris and resume his position.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A MILITARY OFFICER.—At the Daventry Petty Sessions, before Sir R. Knightley, M.P., and a full bench, Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick West, of Braunston, Northamptonshire, was charged with indecently assaulting Alice Nicholls Butcher. Mr. Grey appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Roche for the defendant. The complainant, who is sixteen years of age, entered Colonel West's service, at Braunston, in September last, and she deposed that on the 28th December last, when she had occasion to enter his bedroom, the defendant kissed her, locked the door, threw her upon the bed and assaulted her indecently. She did not make any alarm or complaint to any one until New Year's day, when she told the housekeeper, in consequence of the defendant having kissed her once or twice after the alleged assault in the bedroom. Complainant then wrote a letter to her mistress, purporting to come from her sister, asking that she might be allowed to visit her parents at Daventry. Her mistress gave her permission to go home, and she accordingly did so, and told what had occurred to her mother. Her father had an interview with the defendant on the 3rd inst., when he was very indignant at the charge, and manifested some anxiety for complainant's father to give him a written denial that any criminal intercourse had taken place. The defence appeared to be that the complainant was a consenting party to whatever occurred in the bedroom, and witnesses were also called to show that she had allowed the page and other servants to kiss her. The bench committed defendant for trial at the assizes, but accepted bail for his appearance.

DONATIONS FROM A FOX.—On Monday week a fine male fox was seen prowling in the neighbourhood of Arnside. On the 10th inst., Reynard brought into the orchard, occupied by Mr. Thomas Airey Bulleid, &c.—and left there—a fine cock chicken; on the 11th, a water hen; on the 17th, a fine fat wild duck, weighing 5 lbs., which was not quite dead when found, and which served for a good dinner on the Sunday for Mr. Airey and family. It is thought Reynard must have been disturbed on every occasion before he had time to devour his prey.—*Westmoreland Gazette*.

BORN IN A CAB.—A poor woman was conveyed on Saturday from the Southern Police-office to the Lying-in Hospital, Glasgow. On the way, and while in the cab, she gave birth to a fine male child.

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THE WAR IN BHOUTAN.

THE little war on our north-east frontier is exciting some interest in the neighbourhood. The Bhoutan field force is at work; the four columns of which it is composed simultaneously advanced into the Doors on the 1st of December. The four columns are respectively named the right, right centre, left centre, and left. The right column was at Gohatty until the 1st, commanded by Brigadier General Mulcaster, and consisted of three guns; Urquhart's company of the Bengal Sappers; a portion of the 12th Native Infantry; a detachment of the 5th Bengal Cavalry; and the 43rd Native Infantry.

The right centre column was posted at Goolpara, and consisted of a wing of the 44th Native Infantry (Kelaat-i-Ghilzi), three guns, Sale's company of Sappers, and a detachment of the 5th Bengal Cavalry.) Goolpara is an important commercial town and depot for the Assamese, who trade thither in gold, ivory, tar, wax, and salt.

The next column, the left centre, was at Cooch Behar, on the other side of the Brahmaputra, nearly due west again of Goolpara about eighty miles. This column is commanded by Colonel Watson, and is composed of the 3rd Goorkhas, part of the 11th Native Infantry, three Mountain Train Armstrong guns, and some mortars with Sappers and a pontoon train.

The left column was at Jupigoree, about sixty miles to the west again of Cooch Behar. The troops composing this column were under Brig. Gen. Dunsford, C.B.

The above constitutes the entire Dooar field force, which appears to be fairly distributed, the left being of necessity the strongest flank. The four columns, as we said above, started simultaneously on the 1st.

The following account of the taking of Dalimkote is dated within the stronghold, Dec. 8:—

"I send off a few lines just to tell you that we took this famous place the day before yesterday, not, I am sorry to say, without serious loss, the Bhootes having fought with much more courage and resolution than we expected, and the fort being both naturally and artificially strong, and in a most commanding position. The column got close up to the fort without any serious loss, Macgregor, the brigade major, and Loughnan, of the 18th Native Infantry, being the only wounded; but then there stood the fort before us, on a hill about 200 feet high, surrounded by a wall of about twenty feet elevation. We soon brought our small mortars into position, and were getting on very well with the work, throwing shells and carcasses into the fort at about a couple of hundred yards' range, when from a fuse being too short cut, the shell burst in the muzzle of the mortar, and exploded a quantity of powder which poor Griffin was weighing out for the charges, and in an instant three officers, Griffin, Anderson, and Waller, and some artillermen close by, were blown to atoms. This was a terrible catastrophe to the whole force, and had nearly been far worse, as our gallant and much-esteemed Brigadier-General Dunsford was within a yard of the group just before it occurred, having only that instant left poor Griffin to give some orders to Captain Perkins, of the Engineers. By this untoward calamity the force lost the services of three most excellent officers and seven men, and also one of their mortars, which became utterly unserviceable. With great difficulty, and after some delay, an Armstrong gun was brought up the hill, and soon placed in position and brought to play upon the confronting bastion, and with a carcass set fire to the buildings inside the fort. This the general thought an auspicious signal and time for an assault; and having got the scaling ladders up, the storming party made a rush, and carried the place at once, the Bhootes bolting out on the opposite side. Dalimkote is a fearfully strong place, and was not taken without several casualties, the general having had several men shot close to his side, and not a few narrow escapes. Our work is not completed yet, as we have one more fort to take, but not in such a commanding and difficult position.



SKETCHES IN CHINA.—THE COOLIES.

SKETCHES IN CHINA.

We herewith present our readers with two more illustrations from sketches taken in China. The view of Canton is from a drawing by a native artist.

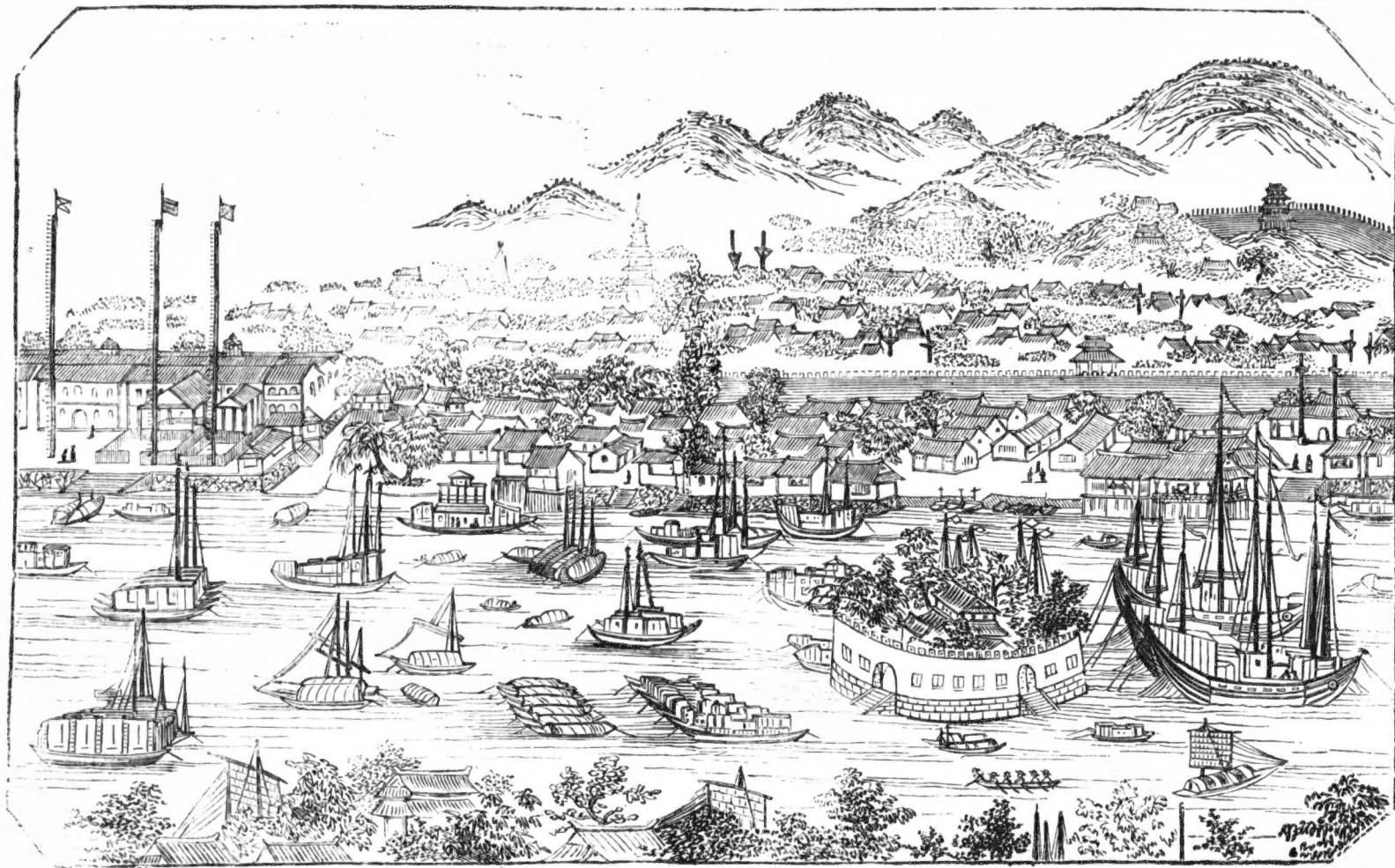
CANTON

(called by the Chinese Sang-Ching, the provincial city) stands on the north bank of the Choo-kiang, or Pearl River. It is nearly square, about six miles in circumference, built generally upon level ground, except on its north side, and is divided into two unequal parts, the outer, or Chinese, and the inner, or Manchou (Tartar) city, which are surrounded by one wall, and separated by another. The walls are partly of sandstone and partly of brick, about 20ft. or 25ft. thick, and from 25ft. to 40ft. high. A line of battlements, with embrasures at intervals of a few feet, raised on the top of the walls all round, are in some places mounted with cannon. The city is further defended by three forts on the land side, and two on Pearl River; but as a place of strength Canton is insignificant. The outer walls are pierced with twelve gates, and four others lead through the inner wall from the old to the new city; all of these are daily opened at dawn, and shut at an early hour of the evening, and strictly guarded, to prevent the exit or entrance of any one, except upon special occasions. The suburbs are, perhaps, as extensive and populous as the city itself. They fill up the space between the walls and the water's edge on both rivers; those on the west side are much the largest. The city and suburbs are laid out in a precisely similar manner. Streets numerous, and generally short and crooked, though sometimes of considerable length. They vary in width from two to sixteen feet, but are commonly from six to eight feet wide, paved with little round stones, and flagged, close to the houses, with larger ones, chiefly of granite. Each is closed by strong gates, secured and guarded at night; and streets of business are each devoted to one distinct branch of trade. Several canals, used for the conveyance of passengers and goods, intersect the city and suburbs. Two of the largest run along the outside of the east and west walls, and communicate by a third which passes through the new city. Several smaller ones branch off from these on either side: they are crossed in many places by stone bridges. Houses built chiefly of brick; but mud, stone, and wood, are also used in their construction, and many of the habitations in the old city are said to be composed entirely of the former material. Near the river they are raised on wooden piles, and elsewhere are generally erected on solid foundations. Scarcely any are more than one storey in height; the roofs of many are flat, and frequented by the family in the cool of the evening.

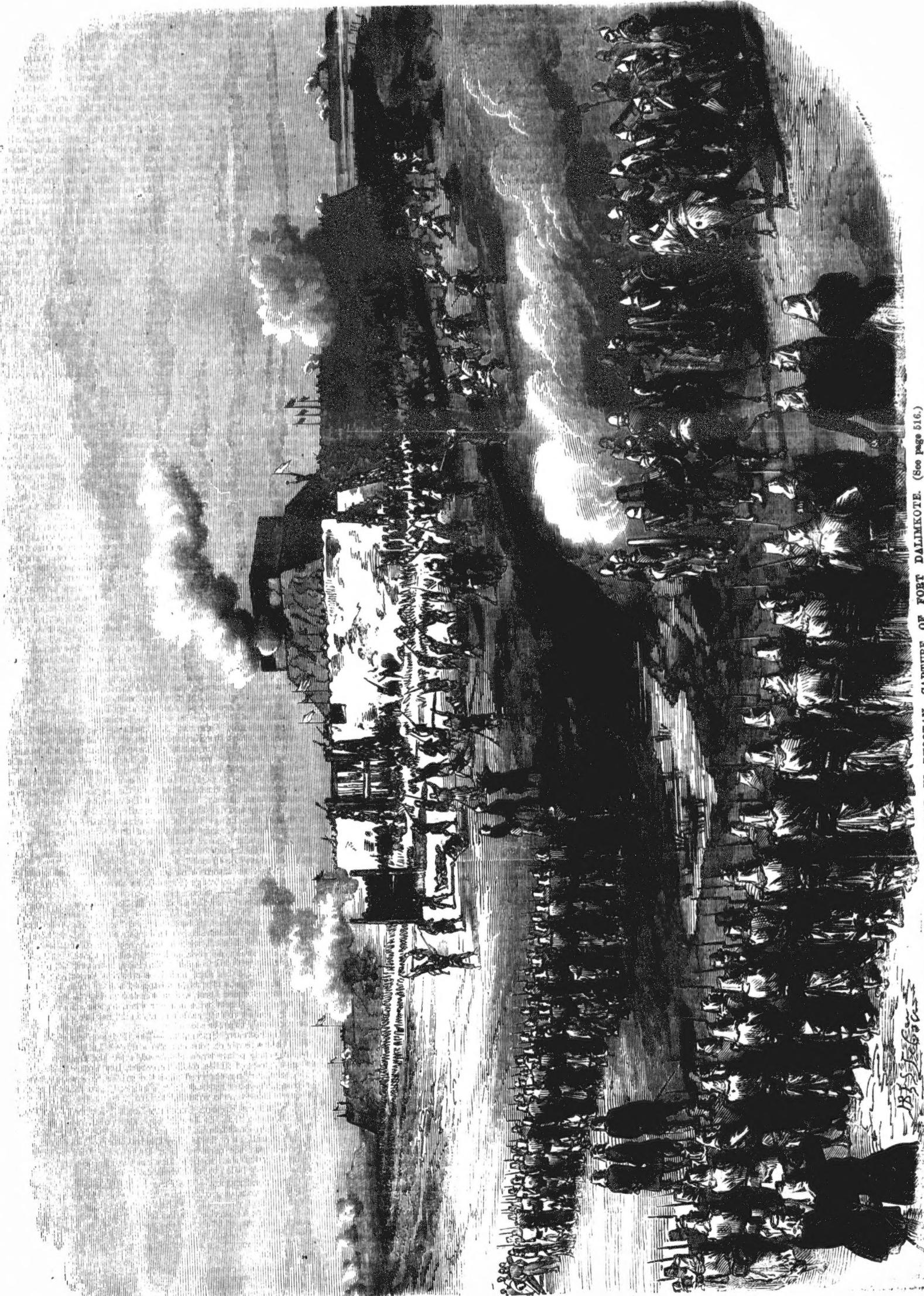
CHINESE COOLIES.

The Chinese coolies form the larger portion of the native population of Hong-kong. These men load and unload the vessels in the port, act as sedan-bearers, and perform the entire transport service of the island, just as the Turkish "hamels" do the carrying work of Constantinople. Some of them are well-made, athletic men, but the generality are half-starved, perambulating skeletons, covered with sores. They may be seen sitting in crowds under the trees, or beneath verandas at the roadside, waiting to be hired.

Their only clothing is a pair of short drawers, covering the loins, and a bamboo hat, which serves for head gear, umbrella, and parasol. Those hats are also applied to other uses, for one frequently sees pipeslung to them, and occasionally they are covered over with fish, hung there to dry as the coolie ambles along. In wet weather their costume is composed entirely of leaves, which keep out the rain most effectually. The coolies have the reputation of being a lazy, pilfering set of vagabonds, a character which they well deserve. Their average earnings are about 100 cash a day, and some of them will spend as much as eighty of this amount on their opium pipes. As may naturally be expected, they die sooner or later of starvation.



CANTON, FROM A CHINESE DRAWING.



THE WAR IN BHOUTAN.—CAPTURE OF FORT DALIMKOTE. (See page 516.)

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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

ANNIVERSARIES.

H. W. L. B.

D. D.		A. M.	P. M.
28	Robespierre guillotined, 1794	2 33 2 55
29	S	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
30	M	Martyrdom of King Charles I, 1649	3 18 3 59
31	T	Hilary Term ends	3 59 4 21
1	W	New River begins, 1608	4 43 5 5
2	T	Candlemas Day	5 27 5 49
3	F	Blasius, bishop and martyr	6 12 6 37
			7 0 7 24

Moon's Changes—First Quarter, 3rd, 1h. 9m. p.m.
 Sunday Lessons.

MORNING.

ISAIAH 57; MATTHEW 26.

AFTERNOON.

ISAIAH 58; 1. COR. 10.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Our Subscribers.—The PENNY ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY News and Reynolds's Newpaper sent post-free to any part of the United Kingdom for three penny postage stamps. Persons wishing to subscribe for a quarter, so as to receive the two newspapers through the post, may remit a subscription of 3s. 6d. to Mr. JOHN DICKS at the Office, 313, Strand.

* All communications for the Editor must contain name and address. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

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G. G.—By all means. Send us your address and we will recommend you a respectable London solicitor who practises in the Divorce Court.

DRUG.—The old Olympic Theatre was burnt down March 29, 1849, and the present one, built on the same site, opened December 26 of the same year.

E. F.—The title of viscount was created in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

HELEN T.—Miss Vincent, formerly of the Victoria Theatre, died Nov. 10, 1866, at the age of forty-two.

P. JONES.—Monmouth is an English county, and was so made by Henry the Eighth in 1536.

A SURVEYOR.—We believe there is no prescribed distance as to how close a railway company can lay their rails to house property, so long as the same may be pronounced safe.

RALPH.—Post-offices were first established in France, about the year 1452, and not in England until 1661.

T. B.—Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton is the author of the comedy of "Money."

ITALIA.—A child born of English parents in a foreign country is, by Act of Parliament regarded as an English subject, unless the parents have formally transferred their allegiance.

R. P. (Dundee).—Braham sang within five years of his death, which occurred February 17, 1864, in his seventy-ninth year.

ANTIQUARIAN.—Lord Elgin began the collection of the marbles bearing his name during his mission to the Ottoman Porte. 1801. He sold them to the trustees of the British Museum for £36,000.

COLABA.—Accrington is in Lancashire. A stamped envelope to the postmaster there would probably gain you the intelligence you require.

Q. O.—The comedy of "London Assurance" was originally brought out at Covent-garden Theatre Thursday, March 4, 1861.

REQUISITE.—The Russian verst is 3,600 feet, or about two-thirds of an English mile.

THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1865

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

ONLY a fortnight has elapsed since the Prussian Chambers were opened by a confident and almost exulting speech from the throne, and already the constitutional struggle, which was interrupted by the excitement of the Schleswig-Holstein campaign, is renewed. The Prussian liberals are anxious to show the Court that the splendours of war do not dazzle them; that the fair words of the Court cannot cajole them. The months which have passed since the storming of Duppel have given them time to recover their self-reliance and their confidence in the support of their party through-

out the country. The scrupulous speeches which have been made during these first sittings, and the warning of the press by a semi-official organ of the minister, are signs that political trouble may be expected. And yet the Government began the session in a very good humour. It was as pleasant and conciliatory as people generally are when they think they have gained all they want. The Court will, no doubt, be sadly chagrined at the tone of the Liberal speakers, for it seemed to take for granted that all constitutional animosities were forgotten, and that the victories over Denmark had disarmed the hostility of the Opposition to Ministerial Budgets and to an exclusively royal management of the army. On the 14th of January the King addressed the Lower House in these words:—"It is my earnest wish that the difference which has arisen within the last few years between my Government and the Chamber of Deputies should be brought to a reconciliation. The memorable events of 1864 will have assisted to enlighten the public mind upon the necessity of improving a military organization which has passed through the test of a successful war." The King added that he was resolved to respect and uphold the rights which the constitution had granted to the representatives of the country, but that if Prussia was to maintain her independence she must be strong, "and a good understanding with the representatives can only be secured by the maintenance of the organization of the army, which guarantees its military efficiency, and consequently the security of the country." In conclusion, the deputies are recommended to devote themselves to the happiness and honour of Prussia as the best means of coming to an agreement with his Majesty and his advisers. There is a mixture of conciliation and firmness in this which King William might naturally expect to be effective when coming from a monarch who has given his country the first military success it has enjoyed for fifty years, and satisfied the patriotic aspirations of Germany for an extended sea-coast. But the instinct of constitutional opposition having been developed in these Prussian breasts is not so easily destroyed. They are grateful to the King for his patriotism, but not to the extent of surrendering their liberties; they are proud of the army, but for that reason are the more determined that it shall be controlled, as it is supported, by the people. The leader in this renewed opposition is Herr von Grabow. This gentleman was elected President of the Chamber of Deputies by a very large majority two days after the sessions began. He lost no time in giving the Court an intimation that his opinions had undergone no change. Whether the royal speech, gracious as it was no doubt meant to be, was understood by the new President as a reproof of the Chamber's past conduct and a warning for the future, or whether he thought that some new invasion of the popular liberties was in prospect, Herr von Grabow made a speech on taking the chair, which invited the Chamber to renew its contest with the Sovereign, and oppose his Government yet more vigorously than heretofore. How this struggle will end time must shortly disclose.

THE Divorce Court has been the means of unravelling many more strange stories and depicting a greater variety of scenes in married life than either the House of Lords or the House of Commons were prepared for when they passed the Act constituting that court. Lords Cranworth and Brougham did not anticipate that more than from eighteen to twenty cases a year could arise; yet more than 2,000 petitions were not only presented, but the causes tried and adjudicated upon. The first stage of the operation of the Act was regarded merely as the accumulation of old sores. The late Sir Cresswell Cresswell, it is said, was of the same opinion, but as time wore on and fresh cases came in, he found that he could not grapple with them unless he was invested with the power of the full court—that is, that he should represent three judges. But even then the cases completely baffled all his calculations, and although he then firmly believed that he could keep the work under, before his death he admitted that it was hopeless. The present judge appears to hold the same opinion, and, judging from the list of causes ready for trial, he will, doubtless, come to the same conclusion as the late Sir Cresswell Cresswell, that he cannot, work hard as he may, keep the causes so in hand as to be enabled to deal justly with them. Divorce causes, it must be borne in mind, are very different to the ordinary cases that come before a court of law. In the latter, trials arise on questions of debt, infringement of contracts or patents, and of libel; but these cases can afford to wait. Not so, however, with respect to cases affecting matrimonial life. Here is a wife struggling to get free from her husband's cruelty and adulterey; he (the husband) brings forward recriminating charges; the characters of both are at stake, and they are mutually shunned by their friends until the guilt or innocence of either party is proved. Therefore, it is most essential that in divorce cases there should be as speedy a despatch as possible. The published list shows that there are 156 cases down for trial in the present term. Sir James Plaisted Wilde is notoriously a hard-working man, and will get through as many cases as he possibly can, but he cannot get through all, even if he were to sit from ten in the morning until six at night. The case of "Codrington v. Codrington and Anderson" lasted some seven days, and the case of "Chetwynd v. Chetwynd" has just occupied ten days; and if rumours current are to be relied upon, there are several others which it is believed will occupy similar periods. The delay thus occasioned practically amounts to a denial of justice, because a man may have saved up a sufficient sum of money to meet the expenses of his suit, supposing that it was to come on in the same way as in any other court of law, but he cannot afford to have a host of witnesses in London from all parts of the country, to keep them several days in town, then have to send them back, and then bring them up the next term. Experience shows that it is easy to get a wife, but excessively costly to get rid of her, even if she be the sorriest prostitute that ever walked the streets. The simple fact is that it is a perfect absurdity for any judge, however able and competent he may be, to take upon himself the duties of judge of the Probate and Divorce Court. The experience, after seven years, has shown that the duties of the two positions are incompatible. Let there be a judge of the Probate Court, and when the present aged but talented judge of the Admiralty Court retires, let his successor take the two offices, and let a judge and an assistant judge be appointed to the Divorce Court. One judge alone, from the present state of the printed cause list, cannot be expected to get through it, to do justice to the litigants.

A SOMERSETSHIRE MYSTERY.

For the last few days the good people of Yatton have discovered that a mysterious agency is at work in their parish, and high and low, clergy and laity, have as yet been unable to explain the matter. On the road leading from Yatton to Cleeve, and not far from Hollow Mead, is a detached cottage, inhabited by a family named Beacham, and it appears that a few nights ago one of the children, little boy, was heard by his parents, whilst in bed, making a noise, as if driving away a cat or dog. He complained that something was scratching at the bed-clothes, and a search was made for the intruder, but its whereabouts were not apparent. On the following night the scratching was continued, and now a loud rapping succeeded, that was plainly heard by all in the house. Puzzled as to the reason of the noise, the Beachams mentioned the subject to the neighbours, and they having visited the premises heard the noise likewise, and after a rigid investigation acknowledged themselves unable to solve the mystery. As might be expected, an affair of this nature soon spread through the whole of the village, and crowds flocked together to listen to the raps, which became louder and louder. Nor was the excitement confined to the humbler class, for the vicar of the parish, the Rev. H. J. Barrard, and Mr. Hurd, amongst others, proceeded to the spot, and having listened to the raps and scratchings, confessed themselves in the dark as to the reason for the disturbance. On Sunday, to crown the ghostly noises, shrieks and wild laughter were audible, while the rapping continued unabated. One peculiarity in this matter is, that the sounds are more frequently heard in the morning than at night, and before breakfast-time the cottage is filled by startled villagers, who listen to them with breathless astonishment. It is almost needless to add that the dwelling has been well searched, and, there being no other house near, the difficulty of accounting for the manifestations is increased. Sometimes there will be heard a sharp series of raps, resembling the clapping of hands, and then the sounds will be like violent blows struck with a stout stick, and the scratching prevails constantly. The boy with whom the matter commenced is regarded with mingled feelings of awe, pity, and dread, as in some measure the cause of the uproar; and, sure enough, where he is, although narrowly watched, it would be quite idle to exclaim, "Cease dat knockin!"—*Bristol Post*

MONSIGNORE DE DREUX-BREZE, Bishop of Moulins, some time since ordered of M. Gerbant-Hallier, of Paris, a number of precious stones to decorate his episcopal mitre. The stones were supplied on the 10th of January accompanied by the bill, amounting to 2,406l. (£94). The prelate thought the price exorbitant, and applied to the Tribunal of Commerce to appoint arbitrators to estimate the value of the stones, his counsel engaging that whatever sum was so fixed should be at once paid. The jeweller's counsel insisted on the payment of his client's bill in full. The tribunal has now appointed persons to examine the stones and to present their report to the president.

RESISTANCE TO TAXATION—Some disturbances took place three days back at Tulle (France) the chief town of the Correze, in consequence of the peasants refusing to pay certain new dues fixed for receiving cattle on the fair-ground—twenty-five centimes for an ox or cow, ten for a sheep, five for a lamb, &c. On the occasion of the fair of St. Antoine, the country people assembled in great numbers before one of the octroi offices, and refused to pay, at the same time uttering cries and threats. At all the other offices everything passed off with perfect regularity. At last the crowd became so great at the office which was surrounded, that the men on duty were forced to give way. But a small body of troops having come up, the crowd rushed on them with sticks and stones, and struck several. At last the soldiers were so pressed that in self-defence two of them discharged their muskets, killing one man, and wounding another slightly. When the peasants beheld one of their party lying dead they took to flight, but collected afterwards on a height overlooking the town. The prefect having then arrived, ordered the ground in question to be cleared without delay. This was done, and the rest of the day passed over tranquilly. Twenty-six persons were arrested and lodged in prison.—*Gallicani*

LETTER FROM GENERAL MCLELLAN—General McClellan was invited to assist the Keystone Club of Philadelphia, to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans. In his letter, excusing himself for non-attendance, he said:—"I will venture to express my gratification at the gallant manner in which the Keystone Club bore its part in the recent contest. I am confident that its members will ever remain true to the cause of the Union and constitutional liberty, that they will ever prove by word and deed their loyalty and devotion to our country, and that, when the due course of time brings on the next great political contest, they will render to whoever may then be honoured with the proud position of the standard-bearer of the party, the same honourable and zealous support that has filled my heart with pride and gratitude that can never be effaced."

ATTEMPT AT MURDER BY AN AGED LOVER—Much excitement was caused at Montrouge (France), by an attempt to murder, committed by M. H., a man seventy-nine years of age, and of independent property, on the person of Mdlle S.—a governess, aged thirty-six. It appears that M. H.—had been smitten with the charms of the lady, and had informed her of his passion, but she firmly rejected his advances. In despair at this rebuff the old gentleman armed himself with a kitchen chopper, and went to the lady's residence. As soon as he entered her apartment he aimed a blow at her with his weapon. The lady, however, being much the stronger, seized his arm, and in a struggle threw him down and made her escape, at the same raising an alarm. The assailant immediately returned home, and was endeavouring to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor when he was arrested. He had already made two deep gashes in his neck, neither of which, however, is likely to prove mortal.

AN IMPORTANT SIGNATURE—The Prince Imperial (says the *Press*) has recently commenced the study of Latin. A reply given by the young prince when he signed, after the Emperor, the marriage contract of Mdlle de Gondrecourt, has been talked of. The Emperor, having observed that the prince was a long time in signing, the latter responded: "When one has a name like ours, it requires some time to write it."

A WORD OF HONOUR SECURITY LOAN SOCIETY—The *Press* of Vienna states that the Jewish population of Kowno, in Western Russia, have established a loan society, which is distinguished from other institutions of the kind by the fact that no other guarantee is required from the borrower than his word of honour. Since the foundation of the association there has not been a single case of a debtor having failed to fulfil his engagements.

UNFIT FOR SERVICE—The *Times* of Milan has the following:—"A young man, of good fortune, inscribed on the conscription lists for the present year, and betrothed to a handsome girl, was lately declared unfit for service. Delighted at what he considered a lucky escape, he hastened to convey the news to his intended bride, but was sadly taken aback when she informed him of her firm resolution never to accept as a husband a man who was not fit to serve as a soldier."

H. WALKER'S CROCHETS—The new Patent Under-top Handles keep the hooks at all times in true position. By post 100 needles, 1s.; a set of Penelope 51 to 1s.; set Uncotopic, 1s. Maker to the Queen, Alcester, and 47, Gresham-street, London.—*Advertisement*

ENVELOPES 2d, 3d, and 4d. per 100. Note paper 2d, 4d, and 6d. Five Quires. If at any time you want better and cheaper stationery than you get from your regular stationer, try Arthur Gangers, Patentee of the New Safety Envelopes and Writing Papers, 303, High Holborn, W.C. Agents Wanted.—*Advertisement*

The Court.

The confirmation of her royal highness Princess Louise took place on Saturday, at Whippingham Church, by his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. Precisely at twelve o'clock her Majesty the Queen arrived at the church, accompanied by Princess Louise, having been preceded by their royal highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Helena, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice. Her Majesty and the royal family having taken their places on either side of the chancel, Princess Louise stood at the Communion rail, within which were the archbishop, the Dean of Windsor, and the Rev. George Prothero.

The service commenced with a hymn, the archbishop then performed the ceremony, and another hymn was sung, after which the archbishop delivered a charge.

The Queen was attended by Lady Churchill, Lady Caroline Barrington, the Hon. Emma Lascelles, Lieutenant-General the Hon. G. Grey, Colonel Ponsonby, Colonel Sir T. M. Biddulph, Major Elphinstone, and Mr. Buff.

A letter from Coburg states that Queen Victoria, the King of the Belgians, and all the royal family of England will arrive there in May next, and that the betrothal of the Princess Helena with the Hereditary Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar will then take place.

GRAND BALL GIVEN BY THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH AT THE TUILLERIES.

We give on pages 520 and 521 a large engraving of the great ball which took place at the Tuilleries on Wednesday week. The ball was extremely brilliant. The Emperor was present until two in the morning; he appeared in excellent health, and his vivacity and cheerfulness were the more remarked from the reports which had been current during the afternoon having created an impression that his Majesty would not be present. At the same time it is only fair to say that, however slight, there had been a foundation for the reports concerning the Emperor's health. Soon after his return from Chantilly he had a very slight attack of gout. On this slight substratum of fact the alarmist reports had been grounded. A French paper states that the "Empress wore a dress of Lyons silk, the colours of which 'imitated moonshine on a lake.'"

MEN AND WOMEN IN MASSACHUSETTS.—Governor Andrew, in his annual message, just issued, calls attention to the excess of women in Massachusetts, and to the surplus of men in Oregon, California, and other remote western communities. In Oregon, having 52,160 inhabitants, according to the census of 1860, there were 19,961 males over fifteen years old, and only 9,878 females above that age. Its population is estimated at over 100,000—this disproportion yet remaining. In Massachusetts there were 257,833 males between the ages of 15 and 40, and 237,000 females, or a surplus of 29,166. The excess, the governor says, of women of all ages above 15 years, was 38,846. The absorption of men by the military and naval service during the intervening four years has aggravated this disproportion. And it is a disastrous one; it disorders the market for labour; it reduces women and men to an unnatural competition for employment fitted for men alone, tends to increase the number both of men unable to maintain families, and of women who must maintain themselves unaided. In civilised and refined society it is the office and duty of man to protect women, to furnish her sphere, a support at home. In return she comforts, refines, and adorns domestic life, the family, and the range of social influences. This is also the plainly providential order. Where women are driven to the competitions of the market with men, or where men are left unsupervised and unrefined by the presence of women, society is alike weakened and demoralized. He recommends the adoption of some practical way by which young women may be enabled to emigrate to useful fields of employment in the Western States.—*New York Times*

A COLD BATH.—It having been arranged that some of the patients of the Garnet Hill Asylum should go to the Saturday Evening Concerts in the City Hall, Glasgow, on Saturday fourteen of them were sent under the care of Mr. Stewart, the governor, and two attendants. On their way down the High-street they were overtaken by two fire-engines, which came rattling along at a rapid pace, with the usual bustle and excitement, and attended by a large crowd. This caused the ranks of the concert party to be broken up for the moment, and in the confusion a patient, named William Smith, managed to slip away unobserved. Thinking he might possibly have gone back to the asylum, the governor returned, in hopes of finding him, in which, being unsuccessful, he at once acquainted the police authorities, and sent messengers to the railway stations and hotels. At half-past ten p.m. a policeman called at the asylum, and stated that the patient had been seen to jump over the quay into the river, from which he was rescued by two boatmen, after a short immersion, apparently nothing the worse; that he had been taken to the South-Western Hotel, divested of his wet clothes, and put to bed. Dr. Hill at once proceeded to the hotel, accompanied by the governor and an attendant, and found Mr. Smith in bed, and, to use his own words, "quite well and comfortable," policeman being in charge of him. The attendant sat up with him during the remainder of the night, and brought him back to the asylum in a cab the following morning. In talking over the matter on Sunday with Dr. Hill, Mr. Smith remarked—"I thought it a good opportunity to slip away. I did not know what to do, and I thought the best way to end my troubles was to jump into the river. I knew Glasgow a little, and made my way to the Broomielaw, where I jumped over the quay below the bridge on the south side. Some people were near, and must have seen me, for I was soon got out by two men in a boat."—*North British Mail*.

ROBBERY AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD.—John Field, the foreman of armourers, employed at the gun wharf, Chatham, and who was arrested on Saturday on a charge of stealing Government stores, was brought before the magistrates sitting at Chatham, on Monday, charged by Superintendent Strength, head of the Metropolitan police force doing duty at the dockyard, gun wharf, &c., at Chatham, with stealing, with others, two hundred gun-springs, ninety gun-tumblers, and four hammers, the property of the Secretary of State for War. Mr. B. Pratt, sen., solicitor, of Rochester, who appeared on the part of the Government, asked the bench to remand the accused, as other parties were implicated in the matter, and who were not yet in custody. The magistrates remanded the prisoner. The prisoner wished to be liberated on bail, but as Mr. Pratt objected, the bench refused to allow this. Field has been long in the service of Government, and much confidence was reposed in him. It is alleged that he has for some time been plundering the Government. Suspicion fell upon him in consequence of a man offering hand-axes for sale in London. They were thought to be Government property; the man was seized, and on being searched a letter from a Field offering stores for sale was found on him. It is reported that at the prisoner's residence a quantity of Government property has been found.

AN AMERICAN BIGAMIST.—A woman at Detroit, Michigan, is in gaol charged with bigamy. First she married a man, had six children, and was left a widow. Then she married another man. He went away for work, and when he came home found his wife with a new husband. Presently she left her third husband, and married a fourth one. She left him, and was on the point of marrying the fifth time when she was arrested. Her three broken husbands in the court against her.—*New York World*.

THE PRACTICAL GARDENER.

GARDENING OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK.

FLOWER GARDEN.—During severe frosts look over pits and frames, and give them plenty of air in fine weather. Pick off dead and decaying leaves. Prune hardy roses with the exception of those lately planted. Look over dahlia roots, and clean them of diseased and decaying parts; and if a stock is required they may be started in a gentle heat, to produce offsets or cuttings. Should shrubs be getting overcrowded, take up and replant, and prune those of luxuriant growth. Bare and exposed places should be planted with periwinkle or ivy.

KITCHEN GARDEN.—Capsicum seed may be sown in pans or pots, and placed in gentle heat; and as soon as the seedling plants are an inch or two high, to be shifted singly into larger pots until the end of May, when they may be planted on a south border. A little celery for soups may also be sown in a box. Continue to stir the dung in cucumber fruiting beds every two or three days until the plants are ready to be turned out. Sow Paris Cos lettuce in boxes in a gentle heat, and give air in favourable weather. Manure and deeply trench asparagus beds for March planting. Trench ground to be ready for parsnips next month. Sow tomato seed, to have strong plants ready to turn out by the time the frost is over. A small succession of peas and beans, with spinach—the round sort—between the rows, for the chance of an early crop. Protect from frosts as previously advised.

FRUIT GARDEN.—There is little to be done here now. Outdoor vines may still be pruned, thinning out the weakest shoots on the weakest branches, retaining only the strongest. Let the walls be carefully brushed, at the same time removing loose bark from old stems.

THE ITALIAN CLERGY AND THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER.

To enter upon the merits or demerits of the famous encyclical letter of the Pope is entirely out of our province; and that for the simple reason that for weeks past, English and foreign newspapers have devoted columns, day after day, in comments upon it; and now, in all countries where the Roman Catholic religion has any sway, pamphlets are appearing from all quarters upon it—many supporting it; others in severe condemnation. Opinions have been sought by the clergy as to the manner it should be received. The Emperor Napoleon has been appealed to, the King of Italy, and others; and the result is not at all favourable to the Pope. We give on page 524 the audience between the Italian clergy and the King of Italy in reference to the letter.

TIGERS WITH A TASTE FOR LETTERS.—A letter from Cochinchina mentions that the arrival of letters at Barriah from Saigon was recently delayed by a singular incident. The native who acts as courier being some time overdue, the commander of the place sent a detachment to see what had become of him, when, after an hour's march, the troops found the unfortunate Indian perched at the top of a high bamboo, while two enormous tigers were at the foot rolling over the letter-box. The courier was then released from his uncomfortable position, and enabled to continue his journey.

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT WHITE HOUSE.—The White House was thrown open at twelve o'clock on Monday, and the Cabinet ministers, the diplomatic corps, the judges of the Supreme Court, and the Court of Claims, and the army and navy officers, paid, in the order of precedence, the compliments of the season to the President and his wife. At one o'clock the citizens at large were presented. The marine band during the hours of reception discoursed excellent music, and the whole affair passed off with brilliancy, no less than 5,000 people having gained admittance to the reception. The President was in the best of spirits, and received the greetings of his friends in the most genial manner. Mrs. Lincoln was the centre of attraction, charming all by the richness of her toilet and the ease and grace with which she received the numerous congratulations of her admirers. A heavy purple brocade silk, richly trimmed with black velvet, an exquisitely fine black lace shawl, gloves, and headress with jewels to correspond, completed her superb toilet. Robert Lincoln, the eldest son of the President, was also present, having left the Harvard Law School to spend the holidays with his parents. Next Monday evening Mrs. Lincoln will hold a drawing-room, the first of the season.—*New York Times*

AN INVASION OF DEER.—The *Aberdeen Journal* states that, owing to the severe snowstorm in the Grampians, the deer are coming down to the low grounds in the neighbourhood of Ballater, and are committing great havoc among the turnips still in the ground. Large herds have come from the Duke of Richmond's hills at Tomintoul. Some of the herds number as many as from one to two hundred fine-looking animals. A few of the farmers at the foot of Gairn have had liberty to shoot the deer granted them by the lairds, and it is expected other proprietors will be forced to adopt the same course.

LOST ON THE WELSH MOUNTAINS.—Considerable excitement prevailed in Bangor on Tuesday last, on its becoming known that two men—William Jones, smith, Menai View-terrace, Upper Bangor, and Owen Jones, millwright, James-street, who were in the employ of Mr. John Owen, Foundry, Hirsel—had been lost since Monday, the 9th inst., and not the least tidings could be obtained respecting them. Mr. Owen engaged to fit up certain engines at Cwm Eigiau slate quarry, not far from the Talyssarn station in the Vale of Llanrwst, and about two months ago he sent his son, Mr. William Owen, and the two men in question to do the work. On Saturday, the 7th instant, they came to Bangor, over a stupendous wing of Garnedd Llewelyn and through Bethesda, as that is a very short cut. On Monday, the 9th, the three started back by the same route, the day being very stormy and very wet, even in the lowlands, to say nothing of a bleak high mountain, where the wind proved to be terrible, and a deep snow covered the ground. They appear to have got some refreshment at Bethesda, after which they set out on their perilous journey, and walked pretty much together until they came to the "gate" of the hill. From this point Mr. Owen walked on in advance, leaving the two men together following after him. As he ascended the mountain, the wind increased in violence: and so stormy was it, that in one place he had to fall down and clutch the heather to save himself from being blown away. He then became seriously alarmed for his life, but he struggled on, and eventually succeeded in reaching Cwm Eigiau at half-past five o'clock in the evening, very nearly exhausted. After waiting for the men for some time, he concluded that they had returned to Bethesda when they found the difficulty of proceeding on so very great. This idea seems to have fastened itself upon the young man's mind, and it was only on Wednesday night (Wednesday being a fine day), when the man did not come, that he began to have serious doubts as to their fate. On Thursday he wrote to Bangor to inquire about them, but of course nothing was known of them. On Tuesday and Wednesday last Mr. Owen, senior, and a party of men went in search of them, and on Wednesday night it was reported in Bangor that the dead bodies had been found on the top of the mountain; but this report turned out to be erroneous, and from what we can learn it seems probable that some days may elapse before they can be found, supposing they are dead. The snow is very deep and covers the mountain; and in one place there is a precipice 200 yards in depth, at the bottom of which lies a deep pool. We scarcely dare to say that Owen Jones has a wife and seven small children, whilst William Jones has only one child by a former wife. Up to Friday evening nothing whatever was known of their fate.—*North Wales Chronicle*.

A LONDON FOG.

The reduction of the income-tax, parliamentary reform, the repeal of the mail-tax, the purification of the Thames, the relief of distressed quarters, are all measures more or less earnestly desired in diverse quarters. But if on Saturday evening any calculate had started for a metropolitan constituency with an effective Bill in his pocket for the abolition of the institution known as the London fog, he would have distanced the most attractive political competitor for popular favour. Every one was gasping. Even those who remained at home found a large, clear fire but a poor mitigation of the unpleasant atmosphere that filled their comfortable rooms. In the theatres the audiences were pretty much in the position of the be-situated lovers in the "Midsummer Night's Dream." Voices were heard well enough, but the capacity of vision was greatly limited. But it was in the matter of locomotion and out of doors that the full extent of disorganization was manifest. When some years ago the London cabmen struck one day, and left the city to find their way about as best they could, the inconvenience was greater than any one could have imagined. But even then the worst results were loss of dignity and delay. Great magnates arriving from the country were forced to swallow their rank and adopt the omnibus knifeford of middle-class life. Railway passengers were happy if they were able to pounce upon a cabman's cart for their things, and were contented to parade the town beside it, somewhat in the position of a baggage guard. But when the absence of light is thrown in along with the absence of locomotion, as was the case on Saturday night, the inconvenience becomes little less than a calamity for the moment. All day on Sunday every one had some story to tell of a mishap or an adventure on the previous night. Gentlemen of great strategical genius guiding themselves in a masterly manner by a careful regard to the kerbstone, and a highly scientific series of observations of street lamps, found themselves, like a mariner without a compass, in mid ocean when they essayed a crossing or trusted themselves to the roadway. The next lamp, whose direction was carefully taken, and whose appearance was looked for with as much certainty as an accomplished astronomer looks for the reappearance of a well-known comet, appeared not. Some found themselves, after wandering an hour or two, in the exact place from which they started, some in a direction quite opposite to that in which their journey lay, and some nowhere. Cabmen at first were cautious, then extravagant in their demands, and at last impossible to deal with. At one period it seemed as if the only way of securing a Hansom was to buy up the horse, harness, vehicle, and figure, and secure a substantial annuity to the wife and family of the driver in case of the "accident" which he confidently predicted, and declined to encounter upon more ordinary conditions. We have not heard that the rascaldom of the metropolis availed itself of the occasion, but this may be accounted for by the fact that rascals themselves were under the same difficulties. A garter was as likely as not to wander into a police-station with his ill-gotten spoils upon him. The river steamboats had a holiday, and were laid up in ordinary. The omnibuses resolved themselves into a state of dignified inactivity. The railways worked on, but at a slow pace, and fog signals kept exploding along the lines like rifles, in great frequency, rather giving people the idea that an enemy was lodged in the suburbs, stray shots being exchanged by the outposts. The heavy congealed atmosphere above had pressed our own coal smoke and the exhalations of the great city down upon us, and brought sore grievance to many, and inconvenience and discomfort to all.

FATAL COLLERY ACCIDENT.—On Saturday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. Gaunt, Silkstone-common, before Mr. Taylor, on the bodies of William Hebbelwhite, aged twenty-two, Thomas Walton, aged twenty, and William English, aged forty-four, who were killed the previous day in a shaft being sunk by the proprietors of the Hall Royd Colliery, at Silkstone-common. Mr. Morton, the Government inspector, who was present, said the accident was the most singular that he recollects in his experience. Messrs. Haynes and Lawton were sinking to what is known as the four-foot bed, and the lowering and pulling up is performed by a small engine of about two-horse power, and which was under the management of William Hebbelwhite, whilst the two other men killed were shakers. By some means the former got entangled in the head gearing, fell down the pit, and was so much injured that he died in about an hour after being got out of the shaft. The other two men, contrary to rule, got into the "trunk," which is only made to carry one person, and, having reached the top, some part of the machinery partly gave way, and the "trunk" having lowered some four or five yards, it is supposed they clutched at each other to save themselves, and were precipitated to the bottom and killed. The death of the three men is purely attributable to recklessness and departure from the rules by those for whose safety they were dressed. At the conclusion of the evidence, the coroner briefly addressed the jury, and they returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

THE BLACKHEATH TUNNEL ACCIDENT.—One of the principal sufferers by the late accident in the Blackheath Tunnel, on the North Kent Railway, Mr. Edward Mayers, of the War-office, whose injuries, consisting in a fracture of the left leg and severe contusions of the ankle, &c., have confined him for five weeks to a bed in Charing-cross Hospital, has so far advanced towards recovery, under the care of the skilful surgeon attached to that institution, as to have been removed on Saturday last to his residence at Barnes.

SHOCKING RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A sad accident happened on Saturday to a young man named Wilson, belonging to Wooden, near Kelso. He was employed as a guard on a goods train, part of which was being shunted at Galashiels. He was standing on the van, when he accidentally lost his footing and fell upon the rails, and the wheels passed over his thighs, smashing them both in a dreadful manner. As soon as the accident was perceived Wilson was extricated, and, as it was thought advisable at the time, the engine-driver returned to Kelso with him as speedily as possible, where he was conveyed to his mother's house at Wooden, and medical assistance summoned. Several of the Kelso medical gentlemen were in attendance on Saturday afternoon, but we understand that there is little hope entertained of his recovery.—*Scotsman*.

FRIGHTFUL RAILWAY COLLISION.—A railway collision of an alarming character took place at the Bexleyheath station of the Bexleyhead and Chatham Railway on Saturday evening. A goods' train from Bexleyhead was passing the Bexleyheath station when the express from Chatham came up and dashed into it. The collision was so great that the express engine and tender were turned over on their side, and a dreadful loss of life would undoubtedly have ensued had it not been that the leading wheels of the engine came in contact with the down rails, and thus prevented the carriages from being precipitated over the embankment, which at this point is about thirty or forty feet deep. The escape seemed miraculous, for the engine lay partly slanting over the embankment. There were about 200 passengers in the train, but none of them were seriously injured, although some of the carriages were damaged, and the rails were bent and sleepers torn up. By Sunday one line was made clear, and there the train is again in working order. The accident is said to have been caused by the steam from the engine of the goods' train preventing its driver from seeing the approach of the express.

IN TROUBLE.—Toothache, Tic-doloreux, Faceache, Neuralgia, and all nervous affections, use Dr. Johnson's Toothache and Tic Pills. They allay pain and give power to the whole nervous system without affecting the bowels. A box, by post, 14 stamps. Kendall, chemist, Clapham-road, London.—*Advertiser*.



JAN. 28, 1865]



Theatricals, Music, etc.

HER MAJESTY'S.—There has been no alteration in the programme here since our last notice. "Faust," and the pantomime of "The Lion and the Unicorn," continue to draw excellent audiences.

COVENT GARDEN.—A new opera in one act, entitled "Constance," was produced on Monday evening, by the Royal English Opera, with perfect success. The poet is Mr. T. W. Robertson, the composer Mr. Frederic Clay. Love and war are themes not over new, but they are ever suggesting and never grow old. The period of the plot is supposed to be during the war between the Russians and the Poles towards the end of the last century. The Russians have taken the Polish town of Czestochowa, on the frontiers of Silesia. A young Polish officer, Count Madelinski (Mr. Henry Haigh), anxious to see his betrothed, Constance Oranicki (Miss Martorelli), a Polish lady in the town, is taken prisoner by the Russian outposts, and condemned to be shot as a spy. The commandant (Mr. Ainsley Cook) has discovered the love affair between Constance and the count, and, as he loves the lady himself, he offers to give life and freedom to the prisoner, provided she accepts his hand. Constance spurns his offer with scorn. The commandant next tempts the count with promises of a full pardon and the gift of wealth and rank, on behalf of his master the emperor, if he forsakes his country and betrays his cause. The count will die sooner. He is brought out to be shot by a file of soldiers, but at the instant the word "fire" is given by the commandant, the soldiers, who prove to be nothing else than disguised Poles, turn round on the commandant, and seize on him: the assembled citizens rush in armed and put the Russians to flight; the count is saved; Constance rushes in, and flings herself into her lover's arms, and happiness is proclaimed. The story is further enlivened with two comic personages in the Polish interest, Stanislas, played by Mr. H. Corri, and Carlitz, by Mr. Charles Lyall, who have an amusing scene with the commandant, when, dressed as two women, they endeavour to play on the credulity of that all-powerful and pitiless warrior. There is also a *vivandiere*, Rattata, played by Miss Thirlwall, who is of essential service in bringing about the *dénouement*. Mr. Clay's knowledge of instrumentation is by no means inconsiderable, and his feeling for harmony is undeniably. The single songs are all good, and, for the most part, charming. The singing throughout was excellent, and, as is usual when Mr. Alfred Mellon is conductor, the first performance was as perfect as it had been the tenth. All the singers were recalled at the fall of the curtain, and then a loud summons was raised for Mr. Clay, who, after some delay, appeared, and was received with hearty and honest cheers.

DRURY LANE.—The pantomime of "Hop o' my Thumb" still reigns triumphant. No change whatever has been found necessary. Mr. Howard Glover's benefit, and last concert, will take place on Monday morning next, when the entertainments will include dramatic as well as musical performances. "Il Trovatore" (second act), "Lord Daudreary Married and Done For," supported by Mr. Sothern, Mr. Buckstone, and the members of the Haymarket company. With a miscellaneous concert, in which Mr. Sims Reeves, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Enly Soltene, Miss Palmer, Miss Banks, Mr. and Madame Weiss, Mr. Alberto Lawrence, and Mr. G. Perrin, Mr. Honey, Mr. Bartleman, Madame Sainton-Dolby, and other celebrated artists will take part.

LYCEUM.—On Saturday evening last a new version of the famous French drama "L'Auberge des Adrets," which achieved such a marked success when originally produced about thirty years ago on the Parisian boards, with Frederick Lemaire in the principal character, was produced at this establishment. The earliest English adaptation, made by the late Mr. Charles Selby, was brought out under the title of "Robert Macaire," at the Victoria, December 3, 1834. The piece speedily went the round of the metropolitan theatres, engaging the talent of Mr. Yates at the Adelphi, and of Mr. H. Wallace at Covent Garden, where the drama had rather a long run in the season of 1835, when Mr. Osbaldeston held the managerial reins. The new version of the French drama is entitled "The Roadside Inn," and for the evident purpose of presenting Mr. Fechter as Robert Macaire, a character in which one who has so thoroughly devoted himself to the minute points of his art might be reasonably expected to display an amount of finished excellence only to be equalled by that of the great Lemaire, whose performance of the part at the St. James's Theatre as recently as the spring of 1852 may be still vividly remembered by some of our readers. The attempt made in the new version to give a reality to the plot, by providing a catastrophe which admits of no burlesque, may be imagined by some to be a retrogression to the primary intention of the author of the original play, and must, indeed, have proved fatal had the performance of the principal character been submitted to any other actor besides Mr. Fechter. Although the mind was violently strained, and expectation disappointed, so powerful and impressive was Mr. Fechter in his varied delineation, that admiration became the prevailing sentiment. The second act of "The Roadside Inn" differs entirely from that of the "Auberge des Adrets." Instead of the burlesque being carried on to the end of the piece, a grave turn is given to the play at the moment when Robert's wife is about to be committed to prison for the murder. Robert has been looking with strong emotion upon the meeting of his wife and son, who, at the instant of recognition, are about to be separated violently. Overcome by his powerful feelings, and unable to resist the appeal of nature, he gives himself up to the gendarmes as the real murderer. The son, desirous to save his father's life, points out a mode of escape, which, after some consideration, Macaire strives to effect, but is shot in the attempt and dies. This ending seems even a grosser burlesque than the original, but Mr. Fechter's acting carried all objections before it, and converted admiration into admiration. Mr. Fechter's comic acting in the earlier scenes wanted the broad, solid burlesque powers of Frederick Lemaire, but in every other respect was fully equal to that of his predecessor. Indeed, the Robert Macaire of the old actor was copied as closely as possible, even to the dangling of the torn handkerchief from the coat pocket, and the creaking of the snuff-box. In the serious parts of the second act Mr. Fechter could not be surpassed. The whole scene, from the accusation of the wife to Macaire's death, was a masterpiece, in which every change was instinct with reality and meaning, and the whole wrought together with consummate skill. No wonder, indeed, there was no room left to find fault, and that enthusiasm was at its highest. It is hardly necessary to add that, besides the repeated applause lavished on the performance Mr. Fechter received that recall at the close which further testified to the amount of gratification he had afforded. The Jacques Sstrap of Mr. H. Widdicombe was admirable, and the nervous trepidation in which he was constantly kept by the avarice of his companion could not have been more effectively expressed. The talent exhibited by this clever comedian was appreciated by the audience in the heartiest form, and he obtained an equal share of applause on the fall of the curtain. Miss Elsworthy, as the injudicious Maria, the wife of Macaire, greatly heightened the effect of the drama by her able assumption. Mr. Garden as the wealthy farmer, Germani; Mr. O'Hara as the innkeeper, Damont; Mr. Moreland as the come-writer, Pierre; and Mr. Fitzpatrick and Miss B. Percy as the youthful couple, Charles and Adele, whose marriage is so strangely accompanied by such remarkable discoveries, completed a highly efficient cast. The drama has been placed on the stage with every attention to scenery and costume. The novelty of the night was provided by "Grand-

father Whitehead," in which Mr. Emery, who made his first appearance at the theatre this season, played very effectively the old grandfather, originally represented by Mr. W. Farren. The extravaganza of "Bear-Faced Impostors" concluded the entertainments.

ADELPHI.—"Leah" has still been the great attraction during the week. On Monday next, Miss Bateman will appear as Julia, in Sheridan Knowles's "Hunchback." Miss Henrietta Simms is to play Helen.

STRAND.—The new farce of "Mrs. Green's Sang Little Business," by Mr. Charles Smith Chetnau, has proved successful. Mrs. Green is a widow who has a prosperous business in the grocer's line, and her manifest profits induce a number of suitors to offer themselves as partners for life. The successful suitor is the Policeman Rappa, whose beat, including the pavement where Mrs. Green's potatoes are daily displayed in all their tempting excellence, gives him opportunities of which he is not slow to avail himself. The unsuccessful lovers are Mr. John Rattleton, a Government clerk, briskly personated by Mr. Belford, and who is a lodger on the premises; Bung, the Beadle of St. Botis, alternately pompous and penitent, humorously played by Mr. H. J. Turner; Limp, the water-rate collector, very characteristically personified by Mr. Collier; and Joe, the shopboy, divertingly represented by Mr. L. Fredericks. The buxom widow, Mrs. Green, is cleverly acted by Miss Maria Simpson, and the Policeman gives Mr. Thomas Thorne an opportunity of quaintly uttering some odd lines touching upon the peculiarities of "the force." The house is nightly crowded in every part, and, with the burlesques of "The Grecian Bushee" and the preceding semi-comic drama of "Lawrence's Love Suit," there is abundance to laugh at. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales honoured this theatre with a visit on Thursday evening, attended by Sir A. Paget and Mr. Carrington.

SURREY.—We must give Messrs. Anderson and Shepherd another notice for the production of the pantomime of "King Pump-kin." The scenery is of a most gorgeous and brilliant character. Mr. William Callcott, who has been assisted by Mr. Alfred Callcott, has rarely displayed his merits more artistically, and the ballet scene, the Paradise of the Peris, as well as the Transformation picture, the Volcanic Caverns of Crystal, are good enough to vie with the best things of their kind. It may, certainly, be pronounced the best Christmas piece ever produced at the Surrey. The music and overture are admirably arranged, and the leading characters are well personated; the dresses of the ladies and the masks and devices are as gorgeous and funny as can well be imagined. Miss Constance, who appears as Beauty, exercises her well-known vocal powers to the utmost, and her rendering of a parody on "Stonewall Jackson," is marked by so much force that it is generally encored, as well as most of her other effusions. Miss Julie Weston also possesses a good voice. As Richard the Lion Heart she has the main weight of the opening to sustain; and she is admirably seconded by Mr. Edmund Edmunds as Blondel (whose imitation of Miss Menken as Mazeppa is exceedingly good); Mr. J. W. Bruton, as Saladin; Mr. Montgomery, as Marrowhat (King Pump-kin), and a host of others. Miss Elizabeth Webster plays a double part (Philip of France and Fairy Queen), and Miss Rhodes, Miss C. Macready, and Madame Lesebini, who represent respectively Merrythought, Fact, and Fiction, all look and speak charmingly, and with Miss Webster, form a very handsome group. In the ballet scene a pretty lot of fairies appear, and the whole opening is produced under the direction of Mr. Shepherd. The "Great Little Rowells" (as Clown), Mr. Fred Evans (Harlequin), Mr. Beckington (Pantaloons), Miss Schmidt (Columbine), and Miss Emma Collins (Harlequinade) form a fair harlequinade company; and Mr. Vivian, who plays the Mayor of Plymouth in the earlier scenes, makes up as a most extraordinary-looking Sprig. The fun includes bits at Banting, the Davenports, and all the leading topics of the day, and is of the fastest and most furious kind. The drama of "The Tradesman's Son" has preceded the pantomime during the week, and we need scarce add, to crowded audiences.

ROYAL GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.—A morning performance of "Money" will be given at Drury Lane Theatre, on February 13th, in behalf of this excellently-managed fund. The cast will include the names of Messrs. Alfred Wigan, Buckstone, Chippendale, Mrs. Charles Matthews, Mrs. Frank Matthews, Miss Nelly Moore, and others of high reputation.

THE AGRICULTURAL HALL HIPPODROME.—The entertainments presented by Price's renowned Spanish equestrian company continue to be well patronised by the public. They are divided, as usual, into three parts, the first being devoted to the circus, where Frank Pastor, "The Star of America," as he is termed, shines among the equestrian performers. His feats upon a bare-backed horse are something marvellous. He is loudly applauded each time he appears; and the graceful acts of equitation performed by Madame Ranz, Madlle. Christina Ranz, and Madlle. Luisa Schwarz are also received with marked symptoms of approbation. Among the others who distinguished themselves may be mentioned Mr. Arthur Nelson and a couple of clowns, Dallot and Ferdinand; while M. Herzog, the director, introduces a pair of highly-trained horses, called Sultan and Negus. A quadrille, by eight male and female artists, is also worthy of special mention, and the "Course des Amazons," with which the second portion of the programme is opened, is cleverly managed by four ladies. As was the case last year, the chariot and hurdle races are made special features of the morning's and evening's amusement, and both are made very exciting affairs. The third part consists of a grand spectacle, called "The Brigands of the Calabrian Mountains," which introduces a host of supernumeraries in the Hippodrome at the same time. The grand march of the cavalry, in pursuit of the brigands, and the dashing charges they make up the whole length of the building, rouse the audience to the utmost pitch of enthusiasm, and this spectacle alone is worth going a long journey to witness.

THE STRAND MUSIC HALL COMPANY IN CHANCERY.—A petition for the winding-up of the above-named company by the Court of Chancery was on Thursday last presented to the Master of the Rolls by the European and American Finances Corporation (Limited) of 54, Threadneedle-street, in the City of London, and John Dailey and Thomas Morris, both of 3, Piccadilly, Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, wine merchants, trading under the style or firm of Dailey and Morris, creditors of the said company, and the said petition was directed to be heard before the Master of the Rolls this day (Saturday).

MR. AND MRS. ALFRED WIGAN had the honour of giving various readings at Osborne House, on Wednesday evening week, before her Majesty the Queen and the members of the Court. Scenes from "As You Like It" and "The Merchant of Venice" were among the selections.

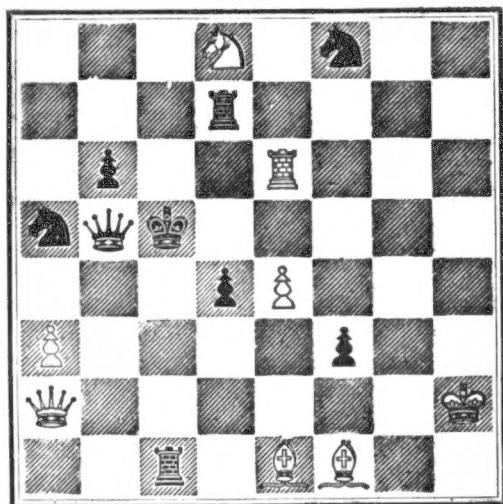
A PATRIARCH.—A lock-keeper at Inlestage, on the River Dun, died last week at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. He was the father of fourteen children, and lived to see around him forty-five grandchildren, seventy-nine great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH.—A Sure Cure for Fits, Indigestion, and many other diseases, is now made known in a "Treatise on Foreign and Native Herbal Preparations," published by Dr. O. Phelps Brown. The prescription was furnished him in such a providential manner that he cannot seriously refuse to make it known, as it has cured every body who has it, never having failed in a single case. It is equally sure of a cure of Dyspepsia, and the ingredients may be obtained at any druggist. Send to all on receipt of four stamps to prepay postage, &c. This work of 48 octavo pages, beautifully illustrated, also treats on Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma, Liver Complaints, General Debility, and gives the best known Herbs and Remedies for their positive and permanent cure. Address, Dr. O. Phelps Brown, 4, King-street, Covent-garden, London.—[Advertisement.]

Chess

PROBLEM NO. 235.—By Mr. ATKINS.

Black.



White.

White to move, and mate in three moves.

Game played by Mr. J. H. Blackburne (blindfold) against a member of the Norwich club, whilst conducting nine other games simultaneously without sight of board or men.

White.

Mr. J. H. Blackburne.

1. P to K 4
2. P to Q 4
3. K Kt to B 3
4. K B to Q B 4
5. Castles
6. Q to K 2
7. P to Q B 3
8. P takes P
9. Kt takes Kt
10. B to K 3
11. Kt to B 3
12. P takes B
13. Q R to B square
14. Kt to Q 5
15. B takes Kt
16. Q to Q B 4 (d)
17. K to R square
18. B takes K B P
19. B takes R (ch)
20. B to E B square
21. B to K 6
22. Q to Q B 7 (e)
23. Q takes Q (ch)
24. P to E R 4
25. P to Q R 3
26. K to R 2
27. R to Q B square
28. B to B 7
29. R to Q Kt 7
30. K to Kt 3
31. K to B 2
32. K to K 3
33. B to R 5

Drawn game.

(a) This preserves the Pawn he has gained, but it is at the cost of a very difficult and embarrassed game. We much prefer 2. P to K 3 at this point.

(b) Q to Q B 2 is generally played.

(c) He would have done all to capture the Q Kt P with Bishop, as a very little examination will suffice to show.

(d) This is preferable to Q to K R 5.

(e) Perhaps Q to K B 7 would have given him a better chance of winning.

Sporting.

BETTING AT TATTERSALL'S

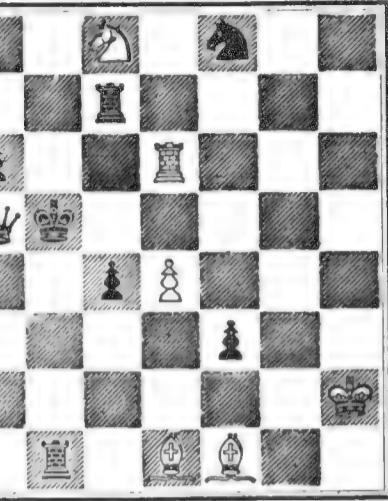
In anticipation of some important transactions on the Two Thousand and Derby members began to arrive early, but, notwithstanding that there was a pretty good muster, it was pronounced a dead and alive sort of day as far as business was concerned. The reported sale of Breadalbane and Broomielaw had at least one effect—that of making both animals somewhat steadier for the two events, 1,400 to 200 having been taken in one bet about the latter for guineas. Liddington was not at all healthy, although "with a run" 2 to 1 would have been put down to win several thousand pounds. For the Derby, however, he was very firm, 11 to 2 being the very highest fraction obtainable. There was a strong party against Breadalbane at 9 to 1; 1,800 to 200 being currently offered; but against the general opposition there was one small voice raised in favour of the Malton crack to the tune of 9 "ponies," that being the full extent of the support awarded to the colt throughout the afternoon. Five hundred to 30 was laid once against Chantanoga, and at anything over 20 to 1 Bedminster would have commanded a host of friends. Twenty-two to 1 to some money was accepted about Broomielaw, and Oppressor was once again favoured with an investment, 1,000 to 30 having been booked once. Forty "fifties" were laid each against the Buck and Brahma, and the same odds to 25. Against Chantanoga, Longdown being friendless at the same price. The "Man Friday" was again dabbling at long shots, but 50 to 1 to 50 was all that the Wantage interest could secure, an offer to take 10,000 to 150 having failed to induce layers to take any further liberties. Another "fifty" was entrusted to Congress at 50 to 1, but up to the close of the business 1,000 to 20 could have been had in every corner of the room. Closing prices:

Two THOUSAND—100 to 15 agst Mr. Merry's Liddington (off); 7 to 1 agst Mr. H. Chaplin's Broomielaw (t); 10 to 1 agst Mr. Merry's Zimbesi (off); 10 to 1 agst Mr. Naylor's Chantanoga (off). Derby—11 to 2 agst Mr. Merry's Liddington (off); 9 to 1 agst Mr. H. Chaplin's Breadalbane (t and off); 11 to 1 agst the Marquis of Hastings' The Duke (off); 100 to 6 agst Mr. Naylor's Chantanoga (t); 20 to 1 agst Sir Joseph Hawley's Bedminster (off); 1,000 to 45 agst Mr. H. Chaplin's Broomielaw (t); 1,000 to 30 agst Mr. Mackenzie's Oppressor (off); 4 to 1 agst Mr. Kelso's Buck (t); 40 to 1 agst Lord Westmoreland's Brahma (t); 40 to 1 agst Mr. T. Wallows' Christmas Carol (t); 40 to 1 agst Mr. Spencer's Longdown (off); 50 to 1 agst Mr. T. Parr's Friday (t and off); 50 to 1 agst Mr. Naylor's Congress (t and off).

Chess

PROBLEM No. 235.—By Mr. ATKINS.

Black.



White.

White to move, and mate in three moves.

Solved by Mr. J. H. Blackburne (blindfold) against a Norwich club, whilst conducting nine other games simultaneously without sight of board or men.

White.

Black.

Rev. B.
1. P to Q B 4
2. P takes P
3. P to K 4 (a)
4. P to K R 3 (b)
5. Q to Q B 2
6. K B to Q B 4
7. K Q to B 3
8. Q K takes Q P
9. B takes Kt
10. B to Q Kt 3 (c)
11. B takes B
12. Kt to K B 3
13. Castles
14. Kt takes Kt
15. Q to Q Kt 3
16. Q takes P (ch)
17. Q to Kt 4
18. R takes R
19. K to R square
20. Q to Q square
21. P to Q 3
22. B to K 3
23. R takes Q
24. P to Q R 3
25. K to Kt square
26. P to Q R 4
27. P to Q B 5
28. P to Q Kt 4
29. B to K 5
30. B to Q 6
31. B to Q R 5
32. K to B square

Drawn game.

preserves the Pawn he has gained, but it is at the cost of a difficult and embarrassed game. We much prefer 2. P to point.

Q B 2 is generally played. It could have done all to capture the Q Kt P with Bishop, the examination will suffice to show.

is preferable to Q to K R 5.

P to Q to K B 7 would have given him a better chance of

Sporting.

BETTING AT TATTERSALL'S

Information of some important transactions on the Two and Derby members began to arrive early, but, notwithstanding that there was a pretty good muster, it was probably a dead and alive sort of day as far as business was concerned. The reported sale of Breadalbane and Broomielaw had no effect—that of making both animals somewhat better for the events, 1,400 to 200 having been taken in one of the latter for guineas. Liddington was not at all healthy, with a run "2 to 1" he would have been put down to win 2000 pounds. For the Derby, however, he was very 2 to 1 being the very highest fraction obtainable. There was a bet against Breadalbane at 9 to 1; 1,800 to 200 being offered; but against the general opposition there was a bet raised in favour of the Malton crack to the tune of "5 to 1" that being the full extent of the support awarded to the latter throughout the afternoon. Five hundred to 30 was laid once on Chattanooga, and at anything over 20 to 1 Bedminster was commanded a host of friends. Twenty-two to 1 to some extent was accepted about Broomielaw, and Oppressor was once mentioned with an investment, 1,000 to 30 having been booked. "Fifteen" were laid each against the Buck and Brahma, the odds to 25 against Christmas Carol, Longdown being at the same price. The "Man Friday" was again dabbling in shorts, but 50 to 1 to 50 was all that the Wantage investors offered to take any further liberties. Another "fifteen" was offered to Congress at 50 to 1, but up to the close of the business could have been had in every corner of the room. Close-

HOUSAND—100 to 15 against Mr. Merry's Liddington (off) at Mr. H. Chaplin's Broomielaw (t); 10 to 1 against Mr. Chappell (off); 10 to 1 against Mr. Naylor's Chattanooga (t); 9 to 1 against Mr. Merry's Liddington (off); 9 to 1 against Mr. Chaplin's Breadalbane (t and off); 11 to 1 against Mr. Chattanooga (t); 20 to 1 against Sir Joseph Hawley's (off); 1,000 to 45 against Mr. H. Chaplin's Broomielaw to 30 against Mr. Mackenzie's Oppressor (off); 4 to 1 against Mr. Buck (t); 40 to 1 against Lord Westmoreland's Brahma (off); 1,000 to 1 against Mr. T. Wallows' Christmas Carol (t); 40 to 1 against Mr. T. Wallows' Christmas Carol (off); 40 to 1 against Mr. Spencer's Longdown (off); 50 to 1 against Mr. T. Parr's (off); 50 to 1 against Mr. Naylor's Congress (t and off).

MARLBOROUGH STREET.
A CANDID DEFENCE.—James White, a strong, healthy looking young man, was charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt with destroying his own clothing.

JAN. 28, 1865.]

Law and Police.

POLICE COURT.

MANSION HOUSE.

AN UNPLEASANT VISITOR.—Robert Atkin, described as a farmer, residing at 15, Crawford-street, Bryanston-square, was charged with obtaining £91 from Mr. W. Brown, of 34, Fenchurch-street, by threatening to shoot him with a pistol. Mr. Brown stated that he was a merchant, residing at Overdale House, Nantfield, Surrey. He formerly resided at Sheepshead, as a member of Balaey, Worthington, and Co. He left there to reside in London in April, 1855. He had an office in London, but used the office of Mr. Liddercall, 34 Fenchurch-street. He was in the outer office at about one o'clock, when the boy told him that some one wanted to see him. He told the boy to show them into the back-room, and immediately afterwards he went into the same room, and as soon as he entered the prisoner, who was accompanied by a female, shut the door, put his back against it, and said his name was Atkin, and drew a pistol from his pocket, and said he wanted his money, all the time holding the pistol in his hand, but not pointed at him. The prisoner said he was a desperate man, and must have his money before he left the room. He told the prisoner he would pay him the money, and give him into custody. The prisoner would not allow him to leave the room, and he wished to write a cheque, but the prisoner said he would not take a cheque. Mr. Brown proposed that the female who was with him should go and ask his friend to get the money, which she did, and Mr. Liddercall went into the room and signed a cheque for £91 2s, and sent for the money, which was given to the prisoner. The sum the prisoner first demanded was over £100. The prisoner produced some papers, which were shown to Mr. Liddercall. The papers appeared to be acts and bills relating to the ship Dennis Hill. He consented to take £91 2s, giving a receipt for it as part freight. During the time of the trial, when the prisoner got the money, he kept taking the pistol out of his pocket. Witness stated that he was restrained from leaving the room on account of the fear caused by the prisoner's having the pistol, which he apprehended he would use if he attempted to leave. He told prisoner that his firm had no right to do with the freight, and they had only acted as agents for another firm. He had seen the prisoner about a year and a half ago, when he said he was the master of the ship Dennis Hill, and that the vessel was chartered by witness's firm, and that there had been a dispute in New York in regard to the freight. Mr. William Liddercall confirmed the statement of Mr. Brown, and said that he had gone into the room where the prisoner was. There had been a dispute about the freight of the ship. He cautioned the prisoner that he would be given into custody, and he ultimately wrote a cheque for the money, and sent for the cash, and handed it over to the prisoner, who signed a receipt for it. He saw the pistol in the prisoner's hand, but he did not notice any threats after he got the money. As the prisoner left the room, he was given into custody by Mr. Brown, a constable having been sent for. The constable who took the prisoner to the station and he saw the pistol in his hand. He gave it up at the station, and it was found to be a revolver with six chambers completely loaded and capped. He heard the prisoner say, "Pay me my money, and then you can give me into custody." It was stated that the prisoner had been a bankrupt since his first application for the money, and consequently, if the money was owing, it should have been paid to his assignees. The prisoner was remanded.

GUILDFORD.

CAB LAW.—Henry Charles Piper, a cabman, living at 5, Millman-row, Chelsea, was summoned before Mr. Alderman Lusk for refusing to take a passenger. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Worms, the complainant, that he engaged the defendant at the Broadway, Blackfriars, and took him to his house in Pilgrim-street, Ludgate-hill, where he went to fetch his wife. On arriving at that place the defendant shouted out, "I can't wait here; my time is precious." Mr. Worms said he would pay for his time, and then placed his wife in the cab, telling her to pay him £1 for driving to Murray-street, Brixton. The defendant, on hearing this, after driving about thirty yards, refused to take Mrs. Worms under £1 6s, and eventually she was obliged to leave the cab, as he said he demanded his fare in advance and refused to stir without it. The defendant, who appeared to be under the influence of liquor, made a very insolent defence, insinuating that Mrs. Worms was not a married woman, and contended that he had a right to refuse a fare when he had reason to believe that he should not be paid. He then wished to enter into a rambling account of the number of times and the way he had been "done" by fare. He denied asking 2s 6d, and said he was willing to take £1 if it had been paid in advance. Mr. Alderman Lusk: But you have no right to demand your fare in advance. Defendant: I am but a young cabman. Mr. Alderman Lusk: I see by your license that you are old enough to have it marked three times, and this will make the fourth. Mr. Burrows, an old and most respectable inhabitant of Ludgate-hill, deposed to having offered the cabman to be responsible for the amount of his fare. The defendant wished the constable evidence to be heard in his behalf. The constable said he heard the defendant offer to take the complaint for £1 6s, provided she paid him in advance. He believed that the reason he did not take the fare was that he had another and a better one in view, as his cab was immediately afterwards taken by some persons who seemed to be waiting for a conveyance. Mr. Alderman Lusk said it was a very bad case, the worst part of which was the violence shown to the lady. He should fine him 2s, or fourteen days, and costs. The defendant was locked up in default.

BOW STREET.

POCKET PICKING IN ST. JAMES'S-PARK.—William Hill, who said he was a labourer, was charged with stealing a silk pocket handkerchief from Colonel M'Murdo, C.B., inspector general of volunteers. A number of gentlemen amongst whom was the colonel, were standing in the enclosure of St. James's-park, observing the people skating on the ornamental water, with some anxiety, from the unsafe condition of the ice, accidents were frequent. He felt a tug at his pocket, and immediately missed his pocket handkerchief, and suspecting the prisoner, who stood close by, the colonel followed him out of the crowd, seized him, and accused him of stealing the handkerchief. The prisoner struggled violently to escape, and though there were a great many apparently respectable persons standing by, not one of them would interfere. They continued to struggle for a distance of thirty yards, when a park-keeper came up and took the prisoner in custody. The colonel's handkerchief and three others were found on him. The prisoner pleaded "Guilty." Mr. Flowers said he was as much sorry as surprised to hear that a number of apparently respectable people would look on and refuse to assist a gentleman who was attempting to apprehend a thief. Fortunately he fell in with a stronger gentleman than he expected. He must be imprisoned for six months with costs.

SOUTHWAKE.

ROBBERY BY MEANS OF CHLOROFORM.—George Henley, a well-known thief, was placed at the bar before Mr. Woolrych, charged with assaulting William Batty, an elderly man, and robbing him of 2s. The prosecutor said that he was a blacksmith residing in the Cornwall-road, Lambeth. On Saturday night, a little before ten o'clock, he escorted a relative to the railway station, and in returning home he lost his way in the fog. At the corner of a street he saw the prisoner talking with another man, and he asked him to put him in the way of the Cornwall-road. The prisoner consented, but he has not proceeded far when he suddenly turned on him and put a handkerchief to his face, the small from which rendered him partially insensible. He was actually rendered powerless, when the prisoner knocked him down and took from his pockets about 2s, with which he made off. He called out "Police" and a minute or so afterwards a constable came up, who assisted him home, and to whom he described the robbery. About an hour afterwards he was called to the police-station when he picked the prisoner out among several others and gave him into custody. In answer to the magistrate, the witness said that he believed chloroform was on the handkerchief. He was so far conscious as to know that the prisoner was using violence towards him and was riding his pockets. When he recovered about 1s of his money was picked up near him, as well as a dirty handkerchief which at the time was small, strongly of chloroform, and which he had no doubt been dropped by the prisoner. Thomas Freshland, 170 M, said he was on duty near the Pear-tree public-house, in the New-cut, on Saturday night, a little after ten, when he saw the prosecutor and prisoner pass him and turn down the Cornwall-road. Knowing the latter to be a thief he followed them, but he soon lost sight of them in the fog. A minute or two after the constable came running up, and told him that a highway robbery had just been committed, and he was after the thief. The witness then proceeded down the street and saw the prosecutor who described the manner in which he had been robbed. About twenty minutes past eleven the same night he met the prisoner in the Waterloo-road, when he told him he wanted him for a highway robbery in the Cornwall-road. He decried all knowledge of the robbery. On searching him witness found five shillings and a pack of cards. Henry Upham, police-constable 159 L, said he was passing the Cornwall-road a little after ten o'clock on Saturday night, when he heard a scuffling noise and a fall close by, and as he was crossing the road he saw a man run away, and heard another call out "Police." He proceeded to the place where the noise came from, and saw the prosecutor getting up. He called out, "Follow that man; he has robbed me." Witness ran down John-street, and not being able to find the thief he returned to the spot when about ten shillings was picked up, and the handkerchief produced. It was very strong at the time, and he was informed that it had been partly saturated with chloroform. Mr. Woolrych asked what was known of the prisoner. The constable replied that if a remand was granted he should be able to produce evidence of former convictions for similar robberies. The prisoner was accordingly remanded.

LAMBETH.

DISORDERLY VOLUNTEERS.—Richard Davis, 20, William Harben, 20, and Joshua Pears, 22, merchants, were charged before the Hon. G. C. Norton with being drunk and disorderly, and conducting themselves in an extraordinary manner in the Walworth-road on Saturday night. Police-constable 113 S said that on Saturday, during the most dense period of the fog, he saw the prisoners in the Walworth-road, each carrying a lighting-rod, and each as black as a new-penny from the smoke emitted. The prisoner Davis carried a large sword and he and the others occasionally struck their links against its scabbard, and caused the fire to roar about and injure some parties. One man had his clothes injured, and another, who had a wheelbarrow, had his basket thrown from his head, but they made compensation.

and also some furnished him by the authorities of St. George's Workhouse Robert Morritt, the porter of St. George's Workhouse, said that on Saturday night the prisoner was admitted into the casual ward of the workhouse, and on Sunday morning it was found that he was destroying his clothes, and others were furnished him, and these were also destroyed. The prisoner said he torn up his clothes, a man telling him he had only to go to St. George's Workhouse to get a tidy suit. Mr. Tyrwhitt remanded the prisoner for twenty-one days.

FUZZY DAWSON DURING THE FOG.—Thomas Wallis Atkinson, a cab-driver, 12, 63, was charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt with driving his Police-constable Charles Blatt, 170 C, said that on Saturday night about half-past ten o'clock during a dense fog, he saw the defendant driving his horse, attached to a Hansom cab, at a gallop through Berksley-square. The defendant was stopped by a gentleman, and on going up to him he was found to be very drunk. The defendant said that he had a fare, and had been engaged for three hours in leading his horse through the fog. The fare thanked him for his care, and then gave him a thimbleful of whisky, and told him it would do him good, but instead of that it completely got over him. Mr. Tyrwhitt said: If ever there was a day when a man ought to have been careful in driving it was Saturday last. He should fine the defendant 7s 6d, or fourteen days. The defendant paid the fine.

WANDSWORTH.

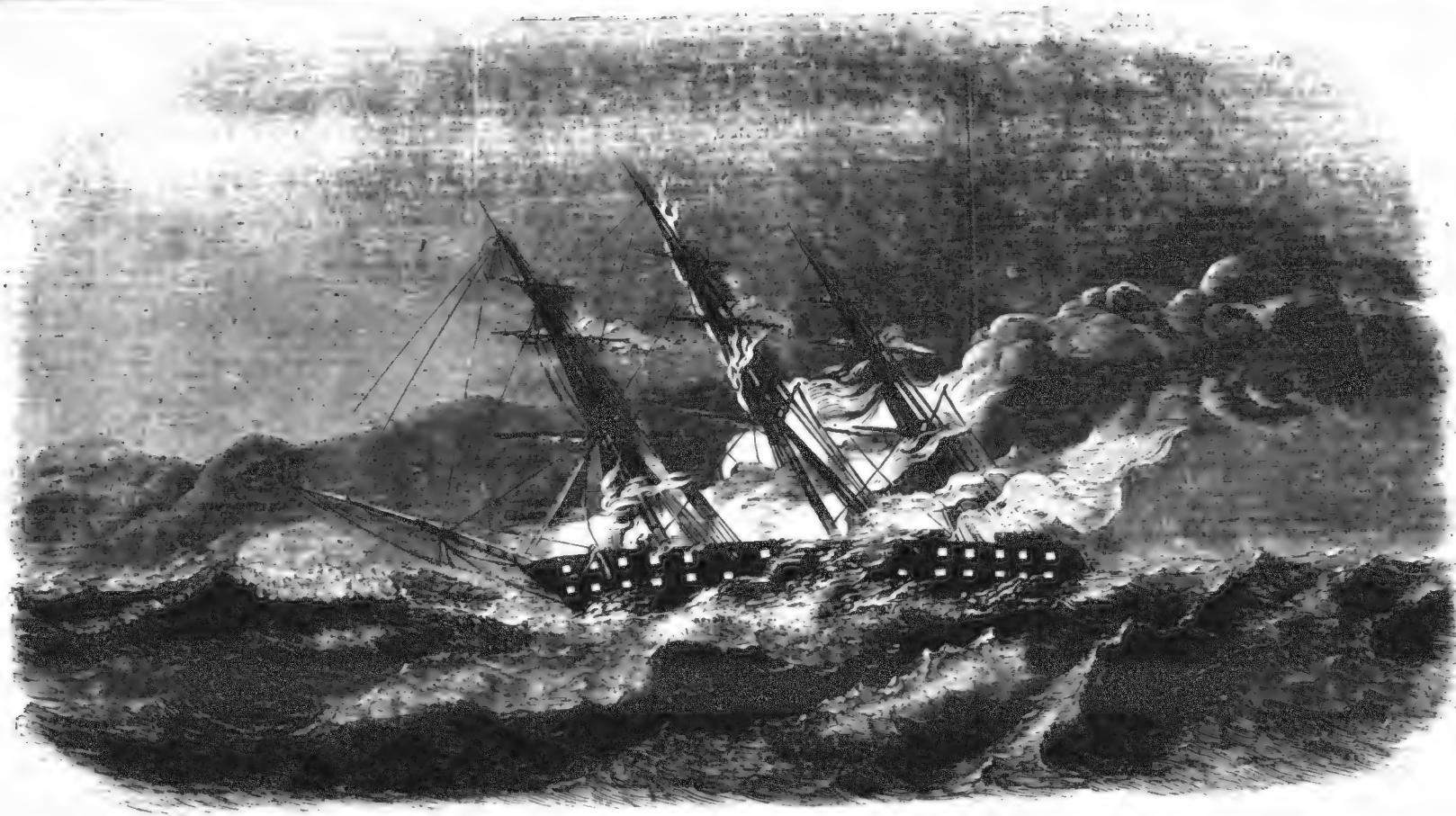
DARING FEMALE HOUSEBREAKERS.—Three young women, who gave the names of Caroline Wood, Ann Faircloth, and Ann Agar, were finally examined on charges of being concerned in committing the following daring robberies:—David Burwood, a cabinet maker, said that between one and two o'clock on the afternoon of the 4th inst., he saw the prisoners in company together, close by the garden gate of No. 4, Park-terrace, Clapham. Wood left his companions and went down the area. In a few minutes afterwards she returned with something bulky under her apron and joined her companions, who had remained outside. She nodded to them and walked away by herself. Witness then saw Agar go down the same area, and the other prisoner (Faircloth) went down the area of the adjoining house. They both returned shortly afterwards and went on in the same direction as Wood had gone. Witness called a constable's attention to Agar and Faircloth after seeing the servant at No. 4, and they were taken into custody. He went on after Wood but missed her, and when he returned he found she was in custody. Harriet Cox, in the service of Mr. Arthur Knapton, a blunderer, of Park-terrace, said shortly before two o'clock on the afternoon in question she left the kitchen, and the door into the area was fastened and the window shut. On looking out of the drawing-room window a few minutes afterwards she saw Agar enter the front gate. Witness then went down to the kitchen and found the window partly open, and she missed several articles of linen Agar offered her for sale some combs and cheap brooches, but she declined to buy any, and she went away. Witness then went to the front of the house and saw Mr. Burwood, who went in search of the prisoners. Not many minutes afterwards she saw Wood come from the direction that Agar went, and she observed that she had a bundle under her apron. Two young men stopped her, and she then saw that she had the missing linen. Mary Cameron, in the service of Mr. W. Dewey, the manager of the City of London Brewery, of 10, Grove-place, Clapham, said about twenty minutes past one o'clock on the same afternoon she returned to the front kitchen and saw the prisoner Wood leaning by the door, which was shut, but not fastened, ten minutes previously. She followed the prisoner and caught hold of her on the area steps. She struggled to get away, but finding she could not she turned and struck her several blows on her head and arm with her master's teapot, which she had stolen from the kitchen table. Witness took the teapot from her, and the prisoner escaped. The witness added that her master's house was just round the corner from the Park-road. Police-constable Mountjoy said he searched Wood at the station, and found on her two cheap brooches. Police-constable Moore, who took the other prisoners into custody, said some combs and mock jewellery were found upon them. He had seen the prisoners in company together near where he apprehended them, about ten minutes previously, and they were then apparently off, combs for sale. Mr. Dayman committed the prisoners for trial for housebreaking. The prisoners, on hearing the decision of the magistrate, commenced crying, and wanted to know why they were to be sent for trial, and why their case could not be settled by him.

GREENWICH.

EXTRAORDINARY APPLICATION.—A CAPTAIN DISMISSED HIS WIFE.—Mr. Fildew, the relieving officer for the parish of Rotherhithe, accompanied by a lady-like looking person, addressing Mr. Trall, the presiding magistrate, said he had an application of a singular nature to make to his worship, to grant a summons against Captain Francis John Taylor, of the ship Refuge, now lying in the import basin of the West India Docks, for deserting, and also disowning, his wife, who was then present, and had become chargeable to the parish of Rotherhithe. From inquiries he had made, and from a certificate of marriage he held in his hand, it appeared that the parties were married at the parish church of Monkwearmouth, in the county of Durham, on the 31st of January, 1852, the present applicant's maiden name being Margaret Presham. For eight or nine years the wife had received her husband's half-pay while he was at sea, and had also received many letters from him, some of which she had now in her possession; but about four years ago her money allowance was discontinued, and all correspondence had from that time ceased. Learning, however, that her husband's ship had arrived a few days since in the West India Docks, the wife was induced to leave Monkwearmouth, and come to London. On going down to the docks she saw her husband and addressed him as such; but he disclaims all knowledge of having ever before seen her, and it would appear that Captain Taylor had—about two years ago—been married to a young lady, at the French embassy in Paris, and that the second wife was then on board the vessel, with a child only five months old. Mr. Trall: What proof have you, besides the testimony of the wife, that Captain Taylor is the person she says to whom she was married? Mr. Fildew: There are the letters in his handwriting which I have alluded to, and the number of the registered certificate of Captain Taylor, of the ship Refuge, is the same as the wife knew the number of his certificate to be at the time of their marriage. Mr. Trall: If there has been a second marriage this matter will be referred to the magistrate. The wife: There is a person living at Monkwearmouth who was present at the marriage, and who can speak to his identity, and whom I can obtain as a witness. Mr. Trall: In that case you can have a summons, which was accordingly granted.

BURGLAR AT BUSINESS.—William Phillips, aged 28, and Henry Ward, 24, both giving false addresses, were charged with burglariously entering the dwelling-house of Mr. Char or Frederick Grimes, 10, Park-end, Sydenham, and stealing property valued at £30. The prisoner said: This morning, at twenty minutes past five, I was awake by a noise in the lower part of the house. I got up and propped a light, and went out upon the landing and tapped at the door of my son's bed-room. I proceeded to the lower landing, and perceived the back drawing-room door open. That door was shut when I went to bed, and consequently I knew there must be some one about the house. I stepped back into my dressing-room to get my revolver, and called to my son to get up. At the same time I proceeded downstairs and heard the sound of some one running out from the back drawing-room down the flight of stairs leading into the kitchen. I ran down as fast as I could, and, fancying I caught a glipse of one man as he turned the corner, I fired. I afterwards found that the thief had escaped by passing through the pantry window into the garden. By this time my son had come down to the garden. I went into the pantry, where I found a boot and the crowbar produced, and outside the window another boot. On returning into the house I found that the drawers in the front and back drawing-rooms had been opened. The lock of a chest had been broken and various plated articles were taken from it, and left lying on the floor ready to be carried away. The chest from which the thief had escaped had also been removed from the glass closet. I then discovered that two iron bars which protected the pantry window outside had been torn away, and the fastening of the pantry window slipped back, by which access to the house had been obtained, the lock of the pantry door being also forced to get into the interior of the premises. Two other boots were found at the bottom of the garden, evidently, with the other boot found, belonging to the persons who had been in the house. I went to the police-station and gave information of a burglary having been committed, and the constable returned with me to the house. There had been a severe white frost during the night, and the footprints of persons without shoes were very distinct. We went across the vegetable garden and found that the door had been broken from off the top of a fence, showing that some one had been getting over there very recently. Having got over the fence and into a field, we followed the footprints until arriving at a yard leading to stables, where there is a haystack partially cut and there found the prisoners, neither having boots on. In the drawing-room a bottle of aqua-fortis was found, which had been used for the purpose of testing whether the plate was silver or not. The prosecutor's son confirmed this evidence, and said that he examined and knew the house to be securely fastened on retiring to bed the previous night. Police-constable Edwards, 27 H, said: On finding the prisoners, as described by the prosecutor, I asked them where their boots were, when Phillips said, pointing in the direction of prosecutor's house, "Over the hedge, there." I then asked Ward where his boots were, and he replied, "Oh, you know," and each of them then asked for his boots, and claimed them when those who were bound were brought to the station. On the charge being entered, the prisoners were informed that the charge against them was for burglariously entering the prosecutor's house, and when asked if they had any answer to make, they replied "No." I asked Ward if they had any answer to make, and Phillips answered, "Not very much." The prisoners declined putting any questions, and were committed for trial.





LOSS OF H.M.S. BOMBAY, BY FIRE, NEAR MONTE VIDEO.

THE LOSS OF THE BOMBAY.

We have received particulars from a correspondent at Monte Video of the loss, by fire, of her Majesty's ship Bombay, off Monte Video. The ship got under way from that port about half-past six on the morning of the 14th of December, and stood down the river under sail, with a fresh breeze from the N.W., which, however, gradually moderated. The crew went to general quarters during the forenoon, and fired at a target. After dinner gunnery practice was resumed, and two concentrated broadsides were fired at the mark. At three p.m. the guns were secured, excepting the foremost lower deck quarters, at which guns there was divisional drill. Lieutenant Stirling had just commenced the drill, when he heard the fire bell ring, and gave up charge to Lieutenant Carr while he went to his station on the upper deck. It was now about half-past three, and the ship was fourteen miles from Monte Video. She was hove to on the starboard tack, with the head yards squared. A little smoke was coming up the ventilators and hatchways, which were immediately covered down. The hammocks were passed out of the netting, unlashed, dipped overboard, or wetted in various

ways, and passed down to the fire, which was reported to be in the after magazine. The boats were uncovered and the stay whips bent on, the commander giving orders that there should not be any unnecessary delay. Immediately after this the yard tackles were dropped on both sides of the burning ship, the main-yard squared, and the other yards secured. This was promptly done, but although a very short time had yet elapsed, the progress of the fire was so destructive that volumes of smoke curled up through every aperture. The chief engineer, Mr. Robert J. Hay, reported that he had vainly endeavoured to get at the sea cocks. The captain then gave orders to Lieutenant Francis Stirling that he should go on getting the boats out, and the second cutter was hoisted out first. Finding that the vessel was past hopes of being saved, the captain ordered that the hands should be piped up, except those who were working at the pumps, and were assisting the fire brigade. The brave fellows answered the several orders given them in the coolest and bravest manner possible. As a proof of the dense volume of smoke which was enveloping the ill-fated ship, it may be mentioned that one officer who was stationed on the fore bridge, to direct certain orders, could not see what was going on astern.

The other boats got out were the admiral's barge, over the port side and then the pinnace and the first launch, over the starboard side. The yards and stays were rounded up and hooked on to the other launch; but the flames had so far mastered the exertions of those who were desperately striving to check them, that they were rapidly spreading over the upper deck, and the main-yard and stay were both burned in two. The flames were now coming up the fore-hatchway, and the officer, Lieutenant Stirling, who was on the fore bridge, got off and joined the captain, Colin A. Campbell, the commander, Mr. Richard Wells, and several other officers and men who had assembled forward. Every man was then told to look out for himself. Still, at this awful time, when the flames were spreading on all sides, and it was not known one minute from another but that the ship would blow up, the men behaved nobly. Some of them tried to get out the dingy, but, unfortunately, she fell and killed two men. All who could swim were told to save themselves by jumping overboard and swimming to the boats. These were obliged to be kept at some little distance owing to the burning spars, which kept falling from aloft, and which, if they had struck the boats, would have committed terrible havoc.



THE KING OF ITALY GIVING AUDIENCE TO THE ITALIAN CLERGY TOUCHING THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER. (See page 519.)



MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES.

amongst the sick who had been placed in them, and who, as stated in the former accounts respecting this disaster, were the first to be cared for. It was now four o'clock, and the first launch had taken in a great many officers and men over the stern. Some of those who were not able to swim slid down by the ropes from the bowsprit shroud, and were so picked up. A large number of the men got out on the bowsprit for safety, and also on to the jibboom, though it was evident that they stood but a very poor chance. The scene now presented was awfully grand. The sails on the foremast were one mass of flames. The port-holes were like the mouths of vast furnaces, from which huge tongues of flame rushed out with a fearful roar, and then licking up the sides of the vessel fell upon and devoured dozens of noble-hearted seamen, who, in the hour of an agonising death, proved their wonderful heroism by the way in which they met an inevitable fate. Added to the horror of the flames were the constant reports of the exploding shells, which, however, scattered about a more merciful death. In consequence of the positive danger which threatened them, the boats which surrounded the ship had to pull clear, as it was feared that she would blow up; and at a quarter-past twelve the mainmast went by the board, and just afterwards the mizzenmast. It now became too hot for any one to stop on board, and the remainder jumped overboard, though several held on by ropes' ends, &c. But in even this desperate situation they were not safe from the effects of the fire. The two bower anchors soon fell, and killed a good many. The port anchor, in falling, knocked the lower boom away, and as this got under the bows it was the fortunate means of saving several lives. Some of the poor fellows were killed by the red-hot cables and melted lead dropping upon them, and so compelling them to let go their hold and be drowned. The last boat to leave the ship was the first launch, which picked up as many as she could under the stern. It was too great a risk to take her under the bows with so many men, as she was hardly manageable. The jolly boat was sent in at 5.30, with a volunteer crew, under the charge of Sub-Lieutenant Hy. A. Mandeville. In three trips she succeeded in bringing off from the vessel all who were left alive, and they were put on board the other boats. The English brig *Lily* picked up several of the boats' crews and took them into Monte Video. Others were picked up by the Stromboli and the Rio Plata steamer, and also conveyed to Monte Video. Some few got on board a French barque, and were conveyed to Buenos Ayres.

When the list of the missing was made up, it was found that there were ninety-three in all, including two officers, Assistant Surgeon John K. Smallhorn, and Mr. Franklyn (boatswain). With these ninety-three, however, those who had the luck to be picked up by the French barque were reckoned, so that there are good grounds for supposing that this large number of missing may be considerably reduced. At the time the fire broke out the *Bombay* was under sail, but had she been steaming the engines could have been turned on, and there would have been a much better chance of subduing the flames. Happily the weather was fine, which enabled the boats to be used, though up to this time the weather had been bad. Rear-Admiral the Hon. Chas. G. J. B. Elliot, C.B., was conveyed to the spot by the Stromboli, and he arrived at the scene of the disaster just in time to see his flag-ship blow up, and the next moment disappear beneath the waves. The gallant officer was greatly affected at the sad sight, and more particularly at the loss of so many of his brave crew. He had the melancholy satisfaction of learning the admirable manner in which they had behaved, and that they worked at their respective posts until the last moment. Indeed,

the boats were hoisted out as if for mere exercise, eight minutes only having elapsed from the time the order was given until they were on the water. Such was the splendid discipline that no one thought of saving himself until the captain gave the order. The kind care which was bestowed upon the sick was equal to that which would have been given had the ship been quietly lying at anchor. The loss of the *Bombay* afforded another among the many proofs of the noble generosity of the English seaman.

The origin of the disaster is not known, as the regulations were strictly observed, and there was no petroleum or inflammable oil used on board.

A letter from a naval officer at Rio Janeiro gives the following account:—"On the 14th of December, at daylight, the *Bombay* left Monte Video with a fair wind. During the forenoon the crew were exercised at general quarters, firing at a target. At 3.30 p.m. one watch was piped to quarters to exercise in firing again. On the man whose duty it was to hand up shell going below he discovered the fire. The fire-bell was immediately rung, and pumps rigged and played on the fire; but all was of no avail. The flames burst up the hatchways, and in a few minutes all communication between quarter-deck and forecastle was effectually stopped. The order was then given to cut out all boats, and in eight minutes they were in the water, with the exception of the launch, and when she was being pulled up, the flames coming up the after-hatchway burnt the stay. The stay-tackle fell, and she came down by the run. The greatest order, coolness, and intrepidity were displayed by all; Mr. Watt, the master, taking time of every occurrence with watch and note-book in hand. The mainmast soon went over the side. The order was then given for every one to look out for themselves. They immediately jumped overboard and swam to the boats lying off; those who could not swim holding on by ropes, some fell and were drowned. Orders had been given for no boats to go near the burning ship; but the jolly-boat, manned by volunteers (and these brave fellows deserve the Victoria Cross) pulled in three or four times and brought away every one they could see. At seven p.m. the ship blew up, not a particle of her remaining. The boats arrived at Monte Video at eleven p.m. Dr. Smallhorn, Mr. Franklin, boatswain, and about ninety men are lost. The admiral, secretary, flag-secretary, and clerks were all at Monte Video."

MEXICAN ANTIQUITIES.

THE occupation of Mexico by the French has invested that place with more than usual interest at the present time. The following account of Mexico will not prove uninteresting to our readers, and above we give an illustration, of some recently discovered Mexican antiquities.

"Humboldt, Bullock, and other European travellers, have furnished excellent descriptions of numerous ancient monuments, which show that the native Mexicans, before the loss of their independence, had been in some respects a comparatively civilised and ingenious people. Among the most extraordinary are pyramids, somewhat similar in exterior form to those of Egypt, and in some instances even of larger dimensions. The base of the pyramid of Cholula is a square of 1,473 feet on each side, and its height is estimated at 177 feet. A far more elegant building, of similar shape, is situated in the northern part of the State of Vera Cruz; it is formed of large blocks of porphyry, highly polished, and arranged in six stages, diminishing in size according to the elevation, and having all its materials most nicely adjusted. The base is a square of eighty-two feet on the sides; it is sixty-five feet high; and the ascent to its top is by a flight of fifty-seven stairs: the front is

richly adorned with hieroglyphics and curious sculptures." The mountains of Tezozoo are nearly covered with the remains of ancient buildings and cities. The ruins of Palenque, near the Rio Chacamas, a branch of the Usumacinta, extend upwards of twenty miles along the ridge of a mountain; and their architecture resembles more that of Europe than of Mexico. The remains of an Aztec city, called by the Spaniards La Casa Grande, are to be seen about a league south of the River Gila, in the State of Occidente. They are spread over a space of more than a square league. In the centre is a tecualli, laid down according to the cardinal points, its sides being 445 feet by 276 feet. It has three stories and a terrace, but no stairs. Within are five apartments, each twenty-seven feet long, eleven broad, and eleven high. A wall with towers surrounds the main building. The traces of an artificial canal to the river are visible. The neighbouring plain is strewed with fragments of red, blue, and white earthenware, and pieces of obsidian, which prove that the Aztecs had passed through a country abounding with this volcanic substance before they dwelt on this spot, previously to their final settlement in Mexico. In the western part of the State of Chihuahua are similar ruins of great extent, which are also considered to have been the site of one of the temporary stations of the Aztecs during their migration southwards. Besides sculptures, vases of elegant form have been found, similar to those of Etruria and Egypt. Roads formed of large hewn blocks of stone may be traced, not only in the neighbourhood of those ruined cities, but at great distances from them.

"The first settlers in Mexico are supposed to have been the Toltecs, a tribe of Indians from the Rocky Mountains, who fixed themselves, after several migrations, near the present city of Mexico, and flourished there for nearly four centuries. Drought, famine, and pestilence at length exterminated them, but not till they had imparted some degree of civilisation to the barbarous Chichimecas, who were the next possessors of the soil, and were in their turn displaced by the Aztecs, who, in 1160, migrated southward from a country north of the Gulf of California, and first fixed themselves in the city of Zumpango, in the valley of Mexico, but afterwards in some islands in the lake Texcoco. Here they maintained themselves by fishing and agriculture, till, in 1825, they founded their chief city on the island of Tenochtitlan, and called it "Mexico," in honour of their martial deity, Mexitli. This nation rapidly increased in power, and, if the remains of monuments and large cities were a just test of civilisation, the Aztecs might claim to rank pretty high among the nations of antiquity. But they had invented no alphabet, and had nothing better than a rude species of picture writing to record events, and were ignorant even of the useful metals. Their barbarism is sufficiently shown by their custom of sacrificing great numbers of human victims on coronation feasts. Montezuma I., the greatest of their sovereigns, extended the Aztec dominions on one side to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the other to the Pacific Ocean; but it must be stated at the same time, that many tribes within this tract yielded only a reluctant obedience, and some even retained their independence. Such, briefly, was the state of Mexico when Munoz de Balbos first landed on its shores. Its conquest was effected by Fernando Cortes, who sailed thither in 1519 with a small force, comprising, on the whole, only about 700 men."

Since then Mexico has passed through many turbulent times up to the recent occupation by the French, and the proclamation of Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico.

GENERAL DE BRETIGNERES DE COURTEILLE has just died, at the age of 100 years.

Literature.

MISS NELL.

BY GRACE GARDNER.

"CHESTER VARNHAM! I am sick and tired of the very name, mamma! Mrs. Cushing and Sue just talked of nothing else, from the time they entered through that door till it closed after them; of his wealth, his position, the splendour and beauty of his house and grounds; his black eyes and handsome moustache; who he walked with from church; who he talked most with at the only party he has condescended to attend; and who, altogether, he has noticed the most; when they know, too, what he has said about being hored by invitations from the village-people, and his open declaration that he did not wish to extend his acquaintance. He is a conceited, pompous, ordinary man—that's just what he is, and nothing more. Now, mamma, you needn't look at me so reprovingly. I know I'm in an uncharitable frame of mind, but I was in a dying hurry to go to Nellie French's, and I've been detained an hour, to hear a dissertation upon Mr. Chester Varnham's merits, who wouldn't give half a thought to anybody in town. It vexes me to see people make themselves so ridiculous running after him—everybody giving parties on his account, which he never condescends to attend. I do wish people would have a little pride and self-respect. Now, mamma, I've talked fast purposely, so you couldn't get a word in edgeways; and you couldn't expect me to wait for the scolding which I know is all prepared."

And, kissing her mother's lips, Madge Everton ran off laughing. A morning or two after this, she received a letter through the post. She did not recognise the handwriting, and opened it, wondering. Her eyes (not very small at any time) opened wider and wider as she read. She went over it a second time, commenting as follows:—

"Seen, admired, and loved me, though my reserve and haughtiness had kept him at a distance." Ahem! has he? "He hopes that I will not be offended at the liberty he has taken in writing." Ahem! "I may think him very bold and presumptuous, on our slight acquaintance, to declare his love, but he implores me to look favourably on his suit." Further, I am to believe that he writes in the utmost sincerity, and begs me to relieve his anxiety by an immediate answer, and signed mine, eternally, C. Varnham."

"Indeed!"

The young girl laughed as she uttered the ejaculation, and folded the letter; but she still looked perplexed.

"Of course, he never wrote this nonsense. He doesn't know me from any other person, and I'm neither a beauty, a belle, nor an heiress, but the daughter of a widow of moderate means, who keeps up a genteel appearance; but who, if she wishes to indulge in any little extravagance, is obliged to 'crochet for friends' to purchase it. Nothing, in any way remarkable, to be in love with out acquaintance, so the question is settled that this exclusive, pompous man did not write this precious letter. Now, who did? Could it be from loving Nelly French? She knows how I dislike this disagreeable intruder."

A thought struck the gay girl. "I have half a mind to take it sufficiently in earnest to answer it. It may give him a needed lesson, and to understand that one of the awkward country girls may be indifferent to his attractions. I believe—yes, I will," and Madge wrote as follows:—

"Mr. Varnham,—I have just received the following letter purporting to be from yourself; and though I am almost positive that you could not so have presumed on our slight acquaintance (if acquaintance it could be called), yet I think it best to enclose it to you, and to say that I decline the honour, as in no respect would you suit me, except in wealth, and that, unfortunately, I have principle against marrying for. Very respectfully, from the one to whom the foregoing letter was addressed."

It would have been amusing to any one to have watched the countenance of Chester Varnham as he read the foregoing laconic epistle, together with the one enclosed. And then he laughed a very low, rich, musical laugh.

"So I've got the mitten, have I? I think I'll subside after this. I've often heard how crestfallen and brok'n-hearted a man feels in such cases, and now I can understand the feeling exactly. And, pray, who may this cool young person be who has given me such a delightful sensation? She has not enclosed the envelope in which it was addressed to her; so as I did not write it, I am ignorant of her name. Mighty cool of the young lady! Wonder what I have done to offend her? 'Have so presumed,' he repeated, and smiled. (Perhaps, to Chester Varnham, it was something new to be told he presumed.) 'So slight an acquaintance,' then he had met this cold fair one."

He tried to recall the faces of those he had met, but they rose in a chaotic mass before him.

Sue Cushing and her mother were not a little delighted when Mr. Varnham accepted their invitation to a party the following week. He not only went, but threw off his exclusiveness entirely—sought an introduction to all the young ladies, and made himself universally agreeable.

But as the evening wore on, he confessed that he was a little envious. Where was his cool correspondent? Evidently he had not yet found her, for it needed no vanity to discern that his attentions thus far had pleased and flattered.

He looked up to catch a mirthful somewhat satirical expression from a pair of brilliant dark eyes, which, however, were turned instantly away. He did not remember of ever having met their possessor. She must have just entered.

He asked an introduction from Sue Cushing, but just as they reached her she turned away, though she must have divined their intention, thus tacitly declining an introduction. He felt intensely piqued, and would have withdrawn; but Sue persisted, and Mr. Varnham was formally presented to Miss Everton.

Mr. Varnham requested Miss Everton's hand in the next dance. Miss Everton was engaged; and so it happened two or three times after in the course of the evening, when he solicited the same pleasure, till he was quite convinced in his own mind that this hard-hearted young girl was the reject of his hand and heart, as offered in that letter. He set himself the task of overcoming her coldness; but she did not unbend. She must be prejudiced against him; but now, and why?

He made inquiries. He learned that she was frank, kind, warm-hearted—a dutiful daughter, a true friend, and a favorite with every one. She was haughty and cold to him alone. Still there was something about her that interested him, and compelled his respect.

Some one had laughingly proposed to him to give a garden party on his grounds. The whole village was thrown into a delightful state of excitement when, shortly after, invitations, very general, were issued by him to that effect.

Among the earliest invitations was one to the Evertons. Mr. Varnham eagerly anticipated her coming. Many of his arrangements had been made with a view to please her.

The afternoon, bright and lovely, came. One party after another arrived; but in vain he looked for Madge. It grew later and later, and finally he acknowledged that it was too late longer to look for her. He felt more disappointed than he would own. He had anticipated being allowed for once to compel her to treat him with courtesy, as she must and would do, if she accepted his hospitality.

Mr. Varnham was musing upon the matter, when he overheard Sue Cushing say to one of her companions, "Isn't it too bad that Madge Everton isn't here?"

"Yes; I think she carries it too far. What if Mr. Varnham did

say that he was terribly bored by the invitations of the village people, and that he didn't wish to extend his acquaintance, and had no time to waste upon us village girls? He didn't know us then; and it is plain, from this party, that he has altered his mind. Shouldn't we have been foolish to have declined attending this splendid affair just for that, as Madge wanted me to do? She said she was forced into inviting us—that it was no wish of his! I shall tell her what she has lost."

This was the mystery, then. This proud young girl had heard his words and resented them; and the worst of it was, that he could not deny them. He had been provoked to say them on his first coming—wishing for quiet and seclusion, and being persecuted with so many invitations.

Madge Everton did not fall in his estimation. He compared her with these girls, whose self-respect was secondary to their love of pleasure. She alone, of the whole village, vindicated her self-respect.

Madge Everton! He caught himself repeating the name many times.

He had a little history buried in his heart. It was concerning a young girl whom he had loved almost to idolatry. He was poor then. He could not offer her the splendour she craved. She married an old man who could give her all he himself lacked. Would Madge Everton have done so? He himself knew not if the history was entirely ended. The old man had died, and his early love was now a rich and charming widow, still young. Moreover, the next week she was to move into the village, where he had recently purchased a place, neighbouring his own.

Meantime Madge was more than ordinarily quiet at home—assisting her mother, sewing and crocheting. She drove one afternoon to a neighbouring town, to attend to some business for her mother. She was well accustomed to driving over the mountains and hills; but being detained, she was much later than she had anticipated. Her little sister Nell had accompanied her.

Several miles from home, the horse, which was young and spirited, became frightened at something, shied, struck the chaise against the stone wall, breaking both shafts. Madge and her sister were both thrown out, but escaped without serious injury.

Madge, looking very pale in the deepening twilight, was standing holding the reins, and deliberating on what was best to be done, when the sound of wheels was heard approaching.

"What is the matter?" was asked in those low, gentlemanly tones which she had never willingly heard before. "Miss Everton! Is it you? And in trouble? I congratulate myself on being near to assist you."

From her tremulous tones, he judged something of her dismay and perplexity. Nell had been awake from sleep by the accident, and was now weeping bitterly. Madge soothed her.

Mr. Varnham proceeded to find out the extent of the damage. There seemed to be a strength in the small, white, jewelled hand which Madge had not expected, but he could not do miracles. He went to the next house, the inmates of which had long since retired, for assistance. Thus time was consumed which brought them far into the night; but withal, Mr. Varnham was so kind and cheery, turning the misfortune and delay into a happy accident. Indeed, he felt it to be so, for he had it at heart to win this young girl's friendship and good-will at least, and what better opportunity could have occurred, than one where he could render her assistance and deserve her thanks?

It had grown cold, and the dews of those mountain-regions fall heavily. He assisted them into his own vehicle, and insisted upon wrapping them in the extra coat he had brought for his own use. Their drive home was not without mishaps. He was not much accustomed to the road, and it was very dark—every star had disappeared from the sky; and, to add to their discomfort, it now began to rain. It was impossible to discern the middle of the road, and Mr. Varnham was compelled to trust to the horse's instinct. The child, half asleep, crowded and uncomfortable, was cross and troublesome. In vain Madge, mortified at her conduct, tried to stop her complaints and soothe her into good humour. Refractory Nell would not be soothed. Mr. Varnham admired the elder sister's kindness and patience. It must be confessed he thought a good shaking would improve the child more than anything else.

Stones seemed never so plenty, and they were nearly overturned by one large one. Nell screamed with all her might, and Madge clung instinctively to Mr. Varnham. He spoke cheerily, blaming his own blindness and stupidity.

"I am not sure Pete knows the road much better than his master; however, I am sure we shall reach home without any serious accident. Does the rain penetrate your dress, Miss Everton?"

Madge thought of one place she knew they must be nearing, with not a little dread and fear. It was a bridge, not more than ten miles from home, quite high over the river underneath; narrow and without railing. She did not wish to appear childish, and she felt that she had already given infinite trouble and annoyance to Mr. Varnham, though his good-humour seemed inexhaustible; but her fears increased to such a degree that at last it forced her to say, though timidly, "I wish you would let us get out and walk please."

"Why? Are you not comfortable? are you crowded? I shan't not advise it; it is very muddy. Are you fearful?" turning to look at her—a vain attempt, from the darkness.

"The bridge, you remember! it is very narrow and has no railing."

He stopped suddenly, and said, thoughtfully, "True; I had forgotten that. How far do you suppose we are from it?"

"I cannot tell certainly, but not more than a quarter or half a mile, I think."

"An accident there might prove rather a serious matter. I will get out and lead the horse."

"Let me get out, too," she said, laying her hand on his arm in her earnestness.

She was unversed this evening, and felt that there was danger where he was not.

"No, my dear Miss Everton, it is too wet and muddy. You must remain in the carriage with your sister." And Madge felt impelled to yield to this gentle but firm decision, even if Miss Nell had not issued a peremptory mandate to the same effect.

She drew a long breath when the danger was safely passed. Soon afterwards they reached home, and Mr. Varnham helped Madge out of the carriage, and carried the child, nearly asleep, but who began scolding again being disturbed, into the house.

"You will, I hope, permit me to call in the morning and inquire after you, and your sister's welfare. I sincerely hope you may not take cold," he said to drooping Madge.

Madge bowed permission and good-night, adding, while Nell kept crossly pulling her in, that her mother would thank him much better than she could do for his kindness.

And then Madge, while she related her adventures to her mother, who had been much alarmed at their new appearance, tenderly undressed the troublesome child, pitying her sleepiness and weariness. Poor cross Nell was fast asleep long before the careful mother had prepared the hot cup of tea and all the preventatives to their taking cold.

Mr. Varnham called on the morrow. His keen eye took in at once all the details, tasteful but unpretending, of the cottage. He divined all that Madge was to her mother and little sister during that first call.

Madge received him with unaffected cordiality; wayward Nell a little pouting, because "he had made her so crowded, and kept waking her up and frightening her the night before;" while her mother thanked him in her gentle way for his kindness to her children.

Madge was dressing a doll for the child, and she resumed her work after the first salutations; for Miss Nell would permit no longer idleness on her sister's part, and kept constantly making suggestions concerning the doll's dress.

"Sister Madge, I want a position with three points behind, just like Sue Cushing's new dress, and I want it trimmed splendidly. Now, won't you do, Madge. And the sleeves—I want the very latest style."

The mother now interfered to secure a minute's peace for Madge, and Nell was sent out of the room.

The young people had become better acquainted the previous evening than weeks of forced intercourse could have made them. She laughed gaily now at the mishaps of the previous night. After a long call he went away, charmed with Madge and her gentle and lady-like mother, making an exception always in favour of Miss Nell, whom he inwardly desominated a nuisance.

He called frequently after this, and in a few weeks was almost domesticated in the family.

About this time, Mrs. Carroll, the young widow, and early love of Chester Varnham, moved into her new house. She was soon the cynosure of all eyes. She was social and approachable, and the ton of the village called upon her and were cordially received, and they on their part were charmed.

Somehow the story of her early engagement to Chester Varnham became known, and the whole village were expecting to hear of their re-engagement. Report said he visited the fair widow very often, and was very devoted. It was not probable that Madge could long remain ignorant of these reports, and she was inclined to believe them, when for two weeks he did not call at the cottage.

When he at last came, Madge received him the same as ever, though it may have required an effort to do so; but Nell pouted and drew away her hand when he would have shaken hands, and said, petulantly, "No, you don't like us any more, and go every evening to see that lady up on the hill. Sister Madge and I don't want to see you any more, if you don't like us best. Do we, Madge?"

Poor Madge was confounded, and her cheeks crimsoned with shame and mortification, and she tried to quiet the child.

"Nell, dear, you are very rude." And she tried to excuse her by saying that she had missed Mr. Varnham very much.

She had better not have said that last, for Nell, vexed at being reproved, broke out.

"Well, if I did, I wasn't the only one that missed him. I saw you crying last night, Sister Madge—I know what for, too."

Mr. Varnham had often felt inclined to shake the incorrigible child, but it was the first time he had felt inclined to kiss her.

But poor Madge's confusion was painful. She muttered something about a terrible headache the night before, and went to the piano to hide her embarrassment.

"Would you like to hear that piece of music you sent me?"

He went to the piano to turn over the music. Madge bungled and made a dozen mistakes in the piece she was playing, and he kept turning over the music at the wrong time.

"Do you like it?" she asked, by the way of saying something after she had finished.

"Like what?" he asked absent-mindedly. "Oh, the music. Yes, very much. Madge, can't you send that child to bed?" he whispered.

She locked up surprised.

"I have something to say to you," he said, in explanation. Nell overheard him.

"No, I ain't a-going to be sent to bed. Mamma said I might sit up to take care of Madge till she came home."

Mr. Varnham laughed.

"Oh, I will take care of Madge. I can take better care of Madge than you can."

"Oh, no, you can't; because I love Madge when she is good, and lets me do just as I've a mind to, and you don't—you like that lady better than Madge or me."

"Do I? I love Madge better than anybody in the world, Nell; but she don't care anything about me. She refused to marry me once, and I'm afraid she will again."

Nell looked thoughtful. "Do you really love her better than that lady? Madge, you had better—"

But Madge had disappeared.

Mr. Varnham persuaded Nell to go and ask Madge to come back.

She went and came back, looking sober. "She guessed Madge didn't like him, for she told her to ask Mr. Varnham to excuse her; and that she, Nell, must entertain him till her mother returned."

"Give that to your sister," he said, taking a folded paper from his pocket, and writing a few words upon it.

Madge, in her room, opened the folded paper. It was the letter he had received, purporting to be from Mr. Varnham, signed now in his own handwriting.

"Dearest Madge,—Forgive my apparent trifling. The above does not half express my feelings for you. See me, and let me plead my cause."

Madge's pride was hurt at the way of his avowal of affection, and she sent him no reply.

The next day, when he came in somewhat abruptly, she started up and would have down, but he detained her.

"You sent me no reply to my letter," he said, reproachfully.

"You have written me none," she answered, proudly.

"O Madge, this is trifling! You know my heart. You would see me last night; and so I sent you the letter, which I happened to have with me. Madge, can you not love me?"

The terrible child had entered the room and edged near enough to overhear.

"Oh, she likes to tease you, Mr. Varnham. She does love you dearly; I hear her tell mamma so last night, when mamma asked her."

Madge coloured violently. "Nell, hush!" trying to put her hand over the child's mouth.

"She d-d-did, Mr. Varnham. I heard her. You ask mamma, if you don't believe me. Didn't she, mamma?" as her mother entered.

"Didn't Madge tell you last night she loved Mr. Varnham dearly—better than she ever loved anybody? And here she is trying to make him think she doesn't. I say it's a shame."

But mamma, seeing the state of matters at a glance, had drawn Miss Nell to the door, and her last indignant word was partly lost in the shutting of it.

Madge stood like a culprit before Mr. Varnham. An irrepressible smile played round his mouth. She looked up once, but her eyes quickly fell before that smile.

"I believe Nell is right, and that you are teasing me, Madge," he said, breaking the silence. He saw the flushed cheeks break into dimples. "Yes, I do believe it, Madge. Sit down beside me and confess to me all about it, my beautiful patient."

The conclusion must be hinted at by Nell's own words, who was always where she was not wanted, and who said to her mother confidentially, a short time afterwards, "That she guessed Madge and Mr. Varnham had made it up, because they sat right close beside each other on the sofa, and he called her 'his Madge,' and his 'dear little wife.' Did that mean that Madge was to marry Mr. Varnham? And would her name be Madge Varnham then? And wouldn't she never live with them any more?"

We recommend our readers who require any Christmas Amusements or Presents to inspect the stock of Electrical, Galvanic, and Chemical Apparatus at Mr. Faulkner's Laboratory, 40, Endell-street. We draw special attention to the newly-invented Magnetic Electric Coil, for giving shocks, and for the cure of various diseases, used without battery or acid; also to the brilliant light made by burning Magnesia Wire, which is now sold at 1d per foot; and to the Magnetic Electric Engine, a beautiful piece of apparatus, price 25s. to 30s.—[Advertisement.]

Varieties.

A NEW GAME—"No cards."

WHY is an adjective like a drunken man?—Because it cannot stand alone.

WHEN you offer oats to a horse he may say neigh, but he don't mean it.

LAW.—Going to law is the art of cutting one's throat with a pen.

WANTED, the receipt which is given when a gentleman "pays his respects."

A LORD DUNDREARY, of the West-end, says the only parting that ever troubled him was the parting of his back hair.

IMPIOUS IDEA.—That Adam and Eve, after finding the apple, discovered that they were a pair.

LUDICROUS MISTAKE.—A coalheaver lately applied to the magistrate for a game certificate to shoot—coals.

"I THINK I see a new feature in this case," as the lawyer said, when his client informed him that he had plenty of money.

THEY who, when single, spend all their earnings upon themselves, are painfully straitened when they have more than themselves to provide for.

STRANGE, IF TRUE.—A lady had a duck which, hearing it was to be killed for dinner, walked into the garden, and deliberately stuffed itself with sage and onions.

THE first thing you should do, after buying a book, is to write your name on the title-page. This plan will save you many books in your lifetime.

THEY that are in power should be extremely cautious to commit the execution of their plans not only to those who are able, but to those who are willing.

A TOBACCO manufacturer advertises a new brand as "ladies' delight." Our cynical friend wishes to know if that isn't the sort they make into widow's weed.

A FOWL JOKE.—A City policeman up before Judge M. said he was in the hens (N division) "Do you mean in the Poultry?" asked the judge.

A BEERSELLER wrote over his door "Bear sold here." Tom Hood, who saw it, said it was spelt right, because the fluid he sold was his own "brain."

"Mike, why don't you fire at those ducks, boy—don't you see you have got the whole flock before your gun?"—"I know I have, but when I get a good aim at one, two or three others will swim right up 'twixt it and me."

THE true gentleman is absolutely and unalterably the same in the cottage and in the palace, simply cut off respect for himself, and a noble scorn of appearing for a moment other than he is.

RIGHTS OF LABOUR.—The rights of labour are definite and definable: they consist in the freedom of the labourer to work in his own way, and on terms of his own approval, and to exchange the fruits of his labour, at his own price, in the best market he can find.—*P. Harwood.*

POOR RELATIONS.—A Trinity College student being examined in Locke, where he speaks of our relations to the Deity, and asked, "What relations do we most neglect?" he answered, with much simplicity, "Poor relations, sir."

THE following was found in the pocket of a suicide. No inquest was held on the body:—"Why is a rhinoceros, after swallowing a tiger-cat, like a Roman swordsman?—Because he is glad-he ate-her!"

A SCHOOLBOY being asked by his teacher how he should flog him, replied, "If you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system of penmanship, the heavy strokes upwards and the down ones light."

It is pure nonsense to say that beauty when unadorned is adorned the most. For that is as much as to say that a pretty young woman, in the matter of physical appearance, is a person of whom no more can be made. Now, taste and skill can make more of almost anything.

"My dear fellow," said a waggish gentleman to a concited friend, "you have certainly been put to the wrong business." "I do not understand." "You should have been a cooper." "A cooper!" ejaculated the coxcomb in horror. "Yes," said the wag, drily, "a cooper, because you make such a capital butt."

STRANGE PHENOMENA IN PRIVATE LIFE.—The aged lady who recently sewed her old umbrella was rewarded last week with a crop of parasols. A tall, thin, square-built gentleman was seen walking down Regent-street one afternoon a few days ago, when at a sudden he was observed to turn round—*Fun.*

"If you go on in that way, sir," said a prisoner in the dock to his counsel, who was defending him with force and fury, and abusing judge and jury in good set terms—"if you go on in that way, sir, they'll hang me, I know they will." "Never mind, my boy," replied the counsel, an Irish gentleman, carried away by his own eloquence—"never mind, my boy; let them hang you, and I'll make them repent it."

SHERIDAN, the manager, and Delpini, the clown, fell into high words relative to an arrear of salary due to the latter, as *Man Friday* in the "Robinson Crusoe" of the former. Sheridan, provoked at what he deemed the insolence of the pantomimist, told him that he had forgotten his station. "No, indeed, Monsieur Sheridan, I have not," retorted Delpini; "I know the difference between as perfectly well. In birth, parentage, and education, you are superior to me; but in life, character, and behaviour, I am superior to you."

A GENTLEMAN who had the gift of shaping a great many things out of orange peel was displaying his abilities before Theodore Hook and Thomas Hill, and succeeded in carving a pig, to the admiration of the company. Mr. Hill tried the same feat, and after strewing the table with the peel of a dozen oranges, gave it up with the exclamation, "I must give up the pig! I can't make him." "Nay," exclaimed Hook, glancing at the table, "you have done more; instead of one pig, you have made a litter."

SHOCKING DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA.—On Saturday, Mr. Payne, coroner for the City and Southwark, held an inquiry respecting the death from hydrophobia of George Rivers, aged thirteen years.

John Lovell, 2, Victoria-cottages, Peckham, said that on the 14th of last month he was standing in Romley-street, Greenwich, when he saw a large wild-looking dog, two feet high, standing and howling at a man. It was a black retriever dog. The man hallooed and kicked at the animal, which then ran across the street at two boys, and bit one of them in the hip. Witness carried the boy, George Rivers, to a surgeon, who cut the flesh that was bitten.

Police-constable William Anderson, 263 B, said that on the day in question he was on duty in the Greenwich Station as acting sergeant, when a Greenwich pensioner named James Amodeo came in and stated that a large black dog had flown at him and bitten his arm, and that he believed the animal was mad. Witness thereupon instantly went off in pursuit of the dog. He saw the animal in the Trafalgar-road, near the College, rushing along, foaming at the mouth, and with its jaws bloody. A large crowd was following it. On the way it bit three dogs. One of them was caught up by the retriever, which did not stop for an instant, and was shaken, and then flung howling into the roadway bleeding. The chase continued for nearly a mile, when the retriever rushed into the British Queen public-house and got into the tap-room. Witness closed all the doors and asked a butcher to go in and kill the dog with his cleaver. The butcher declined, and would not even accompany witness into the taproom. As witness was afraid the dog would break his way out, and do great mischief among the crowd, he got an iron bar, and went in alone. He succeeded in striking the brute on the head at once, and then beat him until he became insensible. The place was covered with blood. He pulled the dog out to the butcher, who chopped him to death. The carcass was carried away on a wheelbarrow and buried. Where the animal had come from no one knew, but one man, two boys, and four dogs had been bitten in less than an hour. The second boy was Robert Craw, five years of age, a confectioner's son. When he was returning from school, and going into his father's house in Clarence-street, the dog bit him in the hand. The wound was cauterised, and he recovered. The Greenwich pensioner also recovered, for he was bitten through two coats and other garments. All the dogs that were bitten got mad and had to be killed.

W. G. Rivers, 2, Bennett-street, Greenwich, said that deceased did not appear to be affected in health until Friday last. He then became drowsy, and afterwards so restless that on Monday he was carried to the hospital.

Mr. Pusey, house-surgeon at Guy's Hospital,

said that deceased was brought in suffering from hydrophobia. When he attempted to speak he got strong spasms. He died on the previous Tuesday morning. The bitten part had been excised in a quarter of an hour after the wound had been inflicted.

The Coroner, in summing up, said that great credit was due to the police-constable for the courageous manner in which he had destroyed the rabid animal at the risk of his own life. He hoped that his conduct would be taken notice of by his superiors.

The jury returned a verdict "That deceased died from hydrophobia from the bite of a rabid dog; and the jury desire to call the attention of the police authorities to the courage shown by Police-constable Anderson in the steps he took to prevent a further sacrifice of human life."

A subscription, headed by the coroner, was got up for the police-constable in question.

A MISER'S DEATH.

AN inquest took place on Monday, before Dr. Lankester, on the body of a man named James Noah Baker, who had been found dead in the room he occupied, of actual starvation—a fate which it was proved he had encountered, if not voluntarily, yet without the pressure of sore need, and clearly by his own act. The evidence adduced disclosed a remarkable history, which may be summarised as follows:—James Noah Baker, who was fifty-five years of age, lodged in one room at 11, Braithwaite-place, Paddington. He had lived there during the past two years, but had formerly been in business as a tobacconist. His mode of life was this: Even in the most inclement weather he did not have any fire in his room. Every morning he was accustomed to go out with a bag, and he did not return, save exceptionally, till two o'clock in the morning. Few people could tell how he subsisted, but it was known to some that he was a nightly wanderer, travelling about with his bag, like the chiffoiers (rag pickers) of Paris, picking up rags or food or bones. His landlord explained that sometimes he had to press him for the rent, which the old man would reluctantly pay, while at the same time he reiterated he "would see to it; you shall have it regularly." After such an interview he would bring his rent down to the landlord twopence at a time, till at last it was discharged. This witness said "he was a very quiet man. He sang songs very cleverly."

On Tuesday morning all was silent in his room, and the landlord knocked at the door. There was no answer; so, after a time, the police were called in and the door was broken open.

A shocking scene was presented. The old man lay upon the bed, undressed, his emaciated body partly covered with a ragged piece of flannel, and a piece of a shirt. He was quite dead, but looked very peaceful. The right hand was lying across his stomach, the room was in a filthy condition, and swarming with vermin. It was bare and wretched, and half-filled with empty tobacco-jars.

There were also some pieces of stale bread and a piece of cheese-rind about an inch square. A strict search was instituted, and first some money and a bank-book were discovered, wrapped up carefully in some rags, and with them was a memorandum-book. In the bank-book was entered cash for nearly £300, and the account had

not been drawn from since 1857. In the memorandum-book were entered certain records of his food: Monday, bread and water; Tuesday, late dinner, no breakfast; Wednesday, no breakfast or supper; Thursday, dinner off leg of mutton, 3 ounces, 2d. There were also found some loose memoranda all to the same effect: "A soldier's dumpling, 1d.; plato, 1d.; vegetables, 1d.;" and with these last were found two letters. The following one was read: "April 15, 1863.—Dear James—I have the pleasure of enclosing you the half notes for your legacy, and hope you will receive them safely, and derive comfort and happiness from them, with the addition of your daily earnings. I send half a £50 note, half a £20, and half a £5, making £75. The next letter I must register, so I must deduct £s for them, and will enclose 3s in stamps with the second halves when I know they have reached you safely. But I shall not venture till a letter comes from you. I returned from Bath to-day, so I have lost no time in forwarding it. Joseph is still with me. He unites in love to you. Your affectionate sister, EMMA W. BAKER." The writer of this letter was in court, and she stated that she knew of a £40 note which he had received, besides the notes named in the letter. A parcel of money was moreover discovered wrapped in rags and paper. It contained £30 in silver and copper, but no gold. The medical evidence proved that the deceased had been dead about six hours when the door was broken open. There was but little blood on the brain; both lungs were in the third stage of inflammation, and the liver was shrivelled and pale. The stomach was perfectly empty, and he had died for want of food and proper attendance. The verdict found was in accordance with this opinion.

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